Introduction and Background

Summary

This is a Management Plan for the Waitakere Ward Local Reserves.

Local reserves are open spaces that cater for the needs of local residents. They may provide areas for casual recreation such as walking opportunities, landscaped amenity areas and planting for native ecosystems.

Local reserves excluded from the Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan are those that are located in the coastal areas of Te Henga/ Bethells, Piha, Karekare and the Manukau Harbour foreshore; esplanade reserves within the catchments of the Oratia and Opanuku Streams; and local reserves in Swanson. These reserves have or will have separate, collective Reserve Management Plans prepared for them. An outline of reserves with existing Reserve Management Plans is included at section 1.5.

Collectively the reserves in this plan span from Bethells Road and Waitakere Township in the north down to Titirangi and Little Huia in the south. The majority of the local reserves are located in the Titirangi/ Laingholm areas of the City.

The Waitakere Ward (the Ward) is the largest ward in Waitakere City covering approximately 74% of the City’s land area. The ward is dominated by the bush covered ranges which rise up from the Tasman Sea and the Manukau Harbour. The ward also includes the eastern foothills which provide a semi-rural buffer between the densely populated urban area of the City and the native bush of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. The Waitakere Ward and its landscape is not only a prominent feature within Waitakere City but also the wider Auckland Region.

The Waitakere area has a long history of settlement by Maori. Today Te Kawerau a Maki are tangata whenua of the Waitakere district. In the early 1600s ancestors of Te Kawerau a Maki moved from Taranaki up through the Waikato and into the Auckland isthmus, eventually settling as far north as the Kaipara Harbour. Although they are no longer in permanent occupation of their ancestral domain, they are regarded in Maori terms as still holding mana whenua of the land. Ngati Whatua also has strong ancestral and settlement ties to the Waitakere area. This association continues to this day and is actively maintained by the many associated members of the tribe within Waitakere.

European emigrants began settling in the area in the early 1800s with the coastal areas and eastern foothills being cleared for farming and orchards. The forest was also extensively logged with saw mills located throughout the district.

The ranges were subdivided by the government and individual titles sold during the 1850s and 1860s. The eventual decline in logging and the marginal nature of the land for farming on small titles lead to many properties being abandoned or purchased by the Auckland City Council for water supply in the early 1900s. The majority of this land has reverted to bush and forms the ‘Bush Living’ communities of Titirangi, Laingholm, Huia and Waiatarua as well as the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. The eastern foothills are also home to semi-rural communities such as Oratia and Waitakere Township.

There are sixty six local reserves included in this collective Management Plan known as the Waitakere...
Ward Local Reserves Management Plan. The Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan classify the Reserves in the Ward as Local Reserves for the most part. This Management Plan also includes one Citywide Park (Waitakere War Memorial Park and Township Park) as defined in the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan.

Tangiwai Reserve at 201 Huia Road has an existing Reserve Management Plan which was adopted in 1986. The objectives of this Reserve Management Plan are detailed in section 1.7. This will be superseded by the Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan.

Reserves included in the Reserve Management Plan serve an important purpose for the communities that surround them. They are often the location of playgrounds, community buildings, kindergartens, playcentres and open space for recreational use. Many have formed pathways and are shortcut options for pedestrians in the residential communities. Importantly, these reserves contribute to the wider Green Network of Waitakere City as well as offer areas of green relief within the built-up residential environment. Many reserves contain large areas of regenerating native vegetation however; weed infestation is common, especially where adjacent to private properties which can play a significant role in the spread of weed species.

For the most part, the reserves included in this Management Plan have common values, due to their similar geographical and urban location. For this reason, a holistic approach is used to prepare the objectives and policies developed to manage the reserves in this Management Plan.

Once cleared for farmland, the Waitakere Ranges were left to regenerate in native bush, with residential communities growing along the Manukau Harbour. The eastern foothills remain largely open pasture or orchard. Some properties are still cultivated while others have been subdivided into semi-rural life-style blocks.

The bush clad Waitakere Ranges are a dominant feature of Waitakere City and the Auckland Region. A unique feature of the Ward is the semi-urban residential communities that live within the native forest of the ranges. Reserves and open space are required by these communities to provide for the recreational needs of the residents as well as to provide protection to the natural habitat and landscape. All of these features have been identified as important elements to the heritage area specified by the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act (2008).

Past land use and development, closely tied to landscape form, also contribute to Waitakere’s sense of place. Amongst the unique natural environment there are old and new developments, notable historical people and landscape features; many of which are reflected in the names of street and reserve. There is potential to enhance the reserves in a manner that strengthens this essence of the Ward. The Management Plan will explore this in the development of objectives and policies for the management of Waitakere’s reserves.

1.0 Context

1.1 Waitakere Ward Environment

The Waitakere Ranges were formed over millions of years from a combination of volcanic deposition and tectonic uplifting. The landform today is a result of subsequent erosion from the predominant westerly winds and the many streams that flow down through the valleys. The ranges are vegetated by native forest, a mix of broadleaf and podocarp species.
WAITAKERE WARD LOCAL RESERVES
See Appendices for detailed Reserve maps.
1.2 The Purpose of the Reserves Management Plan

The purpose of this Reserves Management Plan is to provide and strengthen the values of the reserves and provide facilities in a manner that reflects and retains the existing character of the Waitakere Ward. This Management Plan outlines the management objectives and policies intended to achieve this purpose. The Plan has been produced within the context of Waitakere City’s wider objectives, as well as Council’s Strategic Framework.

Key objectives of the Management Plan are outlined below:

1. To increase the use and enjoyment of the reserves and their recreation opportunities in a way that is consistent with the purposes and values of the reserves.

2. To increase biodiversity and strengthen the Green Network in the urban setting, through planting of species in the reserves to form a network connecting the ranges to the sea.

3. To recognise, protect and, as appropriate, promote the Maori cultural and historical values of the reserves, and to work in partnership with Iwi on the management of issues of significance on the reserves.

4. To recognise, protect and as appropriate promote the European cultural and historical values of the reserves and to work in partnership with the local community on the management of issues of significance on the reserves.

5. To ensure views to the ranges are protected within the parks.

6. To restore and enhance the ecosystems that support native flora and fauna in the reserves in particular those ecosystems that support threatened species.

7. To restore and enhance the life-supporting capacity of the water in the streams and waterways running through the reserves.

8. To protect and enhance the natural character and landscape values of the Waitakere reserves and ensure that the potential adverse effect of structures and physical processes on the landscape is avoided, remedied or mitigated.

9. To minimize obstacles to free access, parking and circulation, including for people with limited mobility, without compromising the natural or recreational values of the reserves.

10. To ensure the reserves are managed in terms of their reserve classifications for the enjoyment and use of the local and regional community, now and in the future.

The works prioritised in this Management Plan through the Table of Works and Concept Plans, are subject to budget allocations. The process for allocating budget is through the Waitakere City Council Long Term Council Community Plan Process.

1.3 The Management Plan Process

The process that was followed in the production of this Plan was in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and included extensive public consultation.

Below is a table outlining the steps taken in this process. (continued over page)
1.4 How to use this Management Plan

This Management Plan is presented in four parts:

Part 1 is the background that includes an introduction to the park and its context. There is a brief explanation of the statutory and strategic framework of this Reserve Management Plan. Part 1 also contains the legal classification of the parks.

Part 2 contains detailed objectives for the management of the reserve and an explanation of these. It outlines policies which will enable the objectives to be met and the method of their implementation.

Part 3 includes Concept Plans for key reserves showing how future development is to be implemented on specific sites.

The Appendices contain detailed material relating to particular aspects of this Plan.

1.5 Summary of Existing Reserve Management Plans within the Waitakere Ward

The Waitakere Ward covers 74% of the City’s total land area. The bulk of the ward is made up of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park which is administered by the Auckland Regional Council through the draft Regional Parks Management Plan. The Ranges comprise important natural features and distinct ecosystems interacting with the western coastal areas, the foreshore of the Manukau Harbour; and the eastern foothills whose streams drain to the upper Waitemata Harbour. Further, the dispersed village centres lend themselves to distinctive community cultures, values and development requirements. These community and ecological differences have been identified through the grouping of local reserves within distinct management areas. A number of Reserve Management Plans have been planned and adopted to reflect these different areas.

There are 68 local reserves that are situated within the Ward that are to be included in the Waitakere Ward Local Reserve Management Plan. Local reserves excluded from the Management Plan are those that are located in coastal areas, such as Te Henga, Piha, Karekare and the Manukau Harbour Foreshore; local esplanade reserves, such as those along the upper reaches of the Oratia and Opanuku Streams; and local reserves in Swanson.
These reserve groupings have or will have separate Reserve Management Plans prepared for them. The existing Reserve Management Plans are described below:

**Piha Reserves – Reserves Management Plan**

The Piha Reserves – Reserves Management Plan was adopted by Waitakere City Council in September 1999. This plan included 24 reserves covering a total area of 22.8 hectares in the Piha valley.

**Piha Coastal Management Plan**

The Piha Coastal Management Plan was adopted by Waitakere City Council in June 2000. The plan outlines beach management issues and builds upon the framework of the Piha Reserves – Reserves Management Plan.

**Te Henga Reserve Management Plan**

The Te Henga Reserve Management Plan was adopted by the Waitakere City Council in September 2001. The 42.9821 hectare recreational reserve is located over the dune area at the mouth of the Waitakere River alongside Bethells Road.

**Manukau Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan**

The Manukau Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan (MHFRMP) was adopted by the Waitakere City Council in August 2001. The plan included all reserves that lie adjacent to the Manukau Harbour foreshore and was developed in recognition of the strong interconnections between the land and the harbour. The plan acts “as a guide to the protection, use and development of the reserves with an emphasis on managing them and their respective values as an integrated network” (MHRSMP, 2001, pg 1).

**Swanson Reserves – Reserve Management Plan**

The Swanson Reserves – Reserve Management Plan was adopted by the Waitakere City Council in August 2004. The plan area covers 2,270 hectares of the Swanson Catchment which lies within the eastern foothills environment. The collective plan includes 12 reserves plus the Kay Road Bale Fill. The reserves include esplanade reserves along the Swanson Stream, bush reserves and reserves within the Swanson Village.

**Crows Park Reserve Management Plan**

The Crows Park Reserve Management Plan was adopted by the Waitakere City Council in March 2001. Crows Park adjoins the eastern boundary with the Kay Road Bale Fill. The reserve is covered in native bush which is recognised to have high natural values.

### 1.6 Proposed Reserve Management Plans within the Waitakere Ward

The remaining collective reserves management plans for the Waitakere Ward scheduled for preparation are listed below:

**Oratia and Opanuku Streams Green Network Corridors (including the Lower Oratia Stream Reserves)**

This plan will include all esplanade reserves in the Waiatarua/Oratia area of the Waitakere ranges and eastern foothills, including the reserves encompassed by the Lower Oratia Streams Reserves Management Plan adopted in 2005.

**Karekare Reserves**

The proposed Karekare Reserves Management plan will include the seven local reserves that are located within the Karekare valley on Karekare Road and Lone Kauri Road.

### 1.7 Existing Reserve Management Plans to be incorporated into the Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan

**Tangiwi Reserve Management Plan**

The Tangiwi Reserve Management Plan was adopted by the City of Waitemata Council in August 1986. The main management objectives of this plan were:
Part One - Introduction and Background

- To provide a reserve that will enhance the scenic value of the immediate locality and provide a focal point for the district as a whole;

- To provide a congenial stopping place for visitors who may be travelling to or from the Manukau Harbour beaches or the recreation areas beyond Laingholm;

- To provide an informal recreation park for local residents; whilst giving added interest by selective planting.

2.0 Statutory Requirements

This section contains the background information relating to the statutory framework within which the Reserve Management Plan has been prepared.

2.1 Reserves Act 1977

The current legislation for administering reserves in New Zealand is the Reserves Act 1977. The purpose of the Reserves Act is set out in Section Three of that Act, and is quoted below. The Act is administered in the Department of Conservation for the purpose of:

- 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:

- Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace, in their natural communities and habitats, and the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape, which in aggregate originally gave New Zealand its own recognisable character;

- Ensuring, as far as possible the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, its bays and inlets and offshore islands, lakeshores and riverbanks, and fostering and promoting the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and the margins of lakes and rivers and the protection of them from unnecessary subdivision and development.

The Reserves Act requires that every reserve have a Management Plan prepared for it. Once this Plan has been adopted by the responsible authority, it is subject to continuous review so that it adapts to changing circumstances or increased knowledge about the reserve. The review procedure is outlined in the Reserves Act and requires a public notification and submission process.
2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

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

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

The RMA requires this Management Plan to consider the following “matters of national importance”:

(a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and 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.

2.3 Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 (WRHAA)

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act was passed into law on 9 April 2008. The Act provides an additional layer of recognition and protection to the Waitakere Ranges and eastern foothills. The majority of the Ward lies within the heritage area; the north eastern portion of the ward falls outside the jurisdiction of the Act. All but three local reserves subject to this management plan lie within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. The reserves outside of the area are: Township Reserve, Kensington Gardens and Howard Reserve.

The purpose of the Act is:

To recognise the national, regional and local importance of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area and to promote the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations.

The WRHA Act states the national significance of the heritage area and defines its heritage features; specifies the objectives of establishing and maintaining the heritage area; and provides additional matters for the Councils and certain other persons to consider when making a decision, exercising a power or carrying out a duty that relates to the heritage area.
Part One - Introduction and Background
The requirements of the WRHA Act include:

• The Regional Plans and Policy Statements and District Plans must have particular regard to the purpose of this Act and to give effect to its objectives.

• The Regional Council must prepare, adopt and maintain a management plan for the integrated management of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 and the special consultative procedure as set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The objectives of the Act are set out below:

• protecting, restoring and enhancing the heritage features and the heritage area;

• ensuring the impacts on the area as a whole are considered when decisions are made affecting any part of it;

• carefully considering risks and uncertainties, using the best information available and endeavouring to protect heritage features when considering decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on the heritage features, including those effects that threaten serious or irreversible damage to the heritage features;

• recognising and avoiding adverse potential or adverse cumulative effects of activities on the environment (which includes the amenity of the heritage area) or its heritage features;

• recognising that, in protecting the heritage features, the heritage area has little capacity to absorb further subdivision;

• ensuring that any subdivision or development of itself or in respect of its cumulative effect, is of an appropriate character, scale and intensity, does not adversely affect the heritage features and does not contribute to urban sprawl;

• maintaining the quality and diversity of landscapes in the heritage area by protecting landscapes of local, regional or national significance, restoring and enhancing degraded landscapes, and managing change within the landscape in an integrated way;

• managing aquatic and terrestrial systems in the area to protect and enhance indigenous habitat values, landscape values and amenity values;

• recognising that people live and work in the heritage area in distinctive communities and enabling them to provide for their social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing;

• providing for future uses of rural land in order to retain a rural character in the area;

• protecting those features of the area that relate to its water catchment and supply functions; and

• protecting in perpetuity, the natural and historic resources of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.

2.4 Draft Regional Parks Management Plan

The Draft Regional Parks Management Plan is a collective plan for all of the Regional Parks. The plan sets out region wide land-use activity policies and objectives. These cover all management issues such as natural hazards, acknowledging tangata whenua ability to express kaitiakitanga and enhance opportunities to provide for their houora (long-term wellbeing) through the park network; protecting and enhancing the natural landscape and geology and the parks biodiversity and ecosystems; cultural heritage features including farmland; recreation and use; and the management of infrastructure with the Parks.

The Plan’s vision for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park is:

“A regional conservation and scenic park that is managed to protect and enhance its natural, cultural and historic values, to provide a place of respite for the people of Auckland, to provide for a range of compatible recreational activities in natural settings, and to cultivate an ethic of stewardship.”
Part One - Introduction and Background

The entire Waitakere Ranges Regional Park will be managed as a Class I (Conservation Park). The management focus points include:

- Protection and restoration of the over 16,000 hectares of dominant indigenous bush and forest, including its flora and fauna, ecosystems and threatened plants; recognising and significant contribution to the region’s biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- Improving the health of Kauri in the Park.

- Ensuring the park is managed in accordance with the purpose and objectives of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.

- Encouraging people to respect the park environment and the enjoyment of other park users. There will be increased emphasis on educating visitors about the park environment, and how they can act as responsible stewards of the park land.

- Developing the Hillary Trail as a multi-day trail predominantly utilising the existing track network.

- Supporting opportunities for volunteers, friends-of-the-park groups and local community groups to participate in the Park’s conservation programmes.

- Continuing to work with communities bordering the park, recognising their stewardship role.

Waitakere City Council has entered into a ‘Reserve Management Exchange Agreement’ with the Auckland Regional Council whereby the management of various reserves are undertaken by Waitakere City Council and vice versa.

Auckland Regional Council reserves to be managed by Waitakere City Council which are included in the Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan:

- Soldiers Memorial Park
- Bishop Park
- Mt Atkinson Reserve

Waitakere City Council reserves managed by the Auckland Regional Council:

- Huia Scenic Reserve
- Beverley Hills Scenic Reserve
- Tainui Reserve

2.5 Waitakere City Council District Plan

The Waitakere City Council District Plan classifies Waitakere into two categories, the Human Environment and the Natural Environment. The Human Environment classification is based on characteristics of the land in terms of human use and development. Under this, Waitakere’s reserves are identified as Open Space Environment, which has policies and rules affecting factors such as the location and design of buildings and structures on reserves.

The Natural Area identification is based on the natural characteristics of the landscape, such as the quality of native vegetation and the presence of streams.

The six Natural Areas are as follows:

- **The Protected Natural Area** is the very best areas of native vegetation, or landforms that are considered to be ‘outstanding’ (in terms of section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act. Several reserves covered by this Management Plan contain the Protected Natural Area classification, and it is important that these areas are given a high degree of protection;

- **The Managed Natural Area** is areas of native vegetation considered to be significant (in terms of section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act). Clearance or disturbance of this vegetation should be avoided as much as possible. The majority of reserves are within the Managed Natural Area. The majority of reserves covered by this management plan lie within the Managed Natural Area.

- **The Coastal Natural Area** is an area which is considered to have a highly distinctive
coastal natural character, and it is important that development does not reduce this coastal characteristic;

The Riparian Margins/Coastal Edges Natural Area are the margins of streams and the coast where strict development restrictions are imposed.

The Restoration Natural Area is where there is vegetation with a native component, but which is not considered to be ‘significant’. Nevertheless, this vegetation has ecological and landscape value, and its retention and enhancement should be considered where appropriate;

The General Natural Area is where there are no particular natural features, and the most appropriate location for any development.

Additionally, there are areas identified as Ecological Linkage Opportunities, or Restoration Natural Areas, where it could be appropriate to revegetate to establish linkages between areas of existing native vegetation.

The policies of this Reserve Management Plan are consistent with the District Plan Rules. This Management Plan will be used to manage impacts and effects of activities through the provision of a management and planning framework that relates and identifies the specific qualities and values of the reserves.

2.6 Historic Places Act 1993

The purpose of the Historic Places Act 1993 is described below.

(1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand.

(2) In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it shall recognise—

(a) The principle that historic places have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of New Zealand’s distinct society; and

(b) The principle that the identification protection, preservation, and conservation of New Zealand’s historical and cultural heritage should—

(i) Take account of all relevant cultural values, knowledge, and disciplines; and

(ii) Take account of material of cultural heritage value and involve the least possible alteration or loss of it; and

(iii) Safeguard the options of present and future generations; and

Catholic Church, Oratia Hall Reserve
Tāmaki Makaurau War Memorial
(iv) Be fully researched, documented, and recorded, where culturally appropriate; and

(ii) Is the site of the wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and

(c) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga

(b) Is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

The definition of a Historic Site under the Historic Places Act 1993 is,

Archaeological site means any place in New Zealand that—

(a) Either—

(i) Was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or

The listing of any other type of heritage site on the register of archaeological sites (NZAA) does not mean the site is protected. Waitakere City Council has the responsibility to protect historic areas and places by listing items and rules within the District Plan.

The listed Cultural Heritage Items located on local reserves within the Ward are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHI No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Legal Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1309</td>
<td>Brick Bridge, Little Muddy Creek, Huia Road, Laingholm</td>
<td>Low parapetted brick bridge, built 1890s. Significance attributed to historical and visual values.</td>
<td>Category II</td>
<td>Road Reserve adjacent to Tangiwai Reserve</td>
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<td>1255</td>
<td>Monument, War Memorial Hall carpark South Titirangi Rd, Titirangi</td>
<td>3m tall granite monument. Significance attributed to historical value</td>
<td>Category II</td>
<td>Pt lot 17 DP 6678</td>
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<tr>
<td>1437</td>
<td>Catholic Church, 565-567 West Coast Rd, Oratia</td>
<td>Simple rectangular timber weatherboard church, built 1900s. Significance attributed to historical, architectural and community values.</td>
<td>Category II</td>
<td>Pt Allot 251 parish of Waikomiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>3508</td>
<td>Catholic Church, 565-567 West Coast Rd, Oratia</td>
<td>Oratia settlers hall heritage building</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>Green Bay, Titirangi Godley Road, Rahui Kahika Godley Road, Rahui Kahika Reserve, behind 184</td>
<td>Native bush</td>
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<td>Pt 10 DP 12789</td>
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<td>1020</td>
<td>Titirangi Wood Bay Road 44, Kauri Agathis australis Otitori Scenic Reserve</td>
<td>Lot 39 DP 31829</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>428</td>
<td>Titirangi War Memorial Park, Kauri Ricker Park Rd</td>
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<td>1020</td>
<td>Wood Bay Way Reserve, Titirangi Sth</td>
<td>Large Kauri Tree</td>
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<td>12243 &amp; 1567</td>
<td>Laingholm Scenic Reserve</td>
<td>Archaeological Site – Rua/terraces</td>
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## Reserve Parcel and Classification Information

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<tr>
<th>Reserve Name (Alphabetical Order)</th>
<th>Legal Description</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>CT/Gazette ref:</th>
<th>Reserves Act 1977 Status (Reserve Classification)</th>
<th>Proposed Reserve Classification</th>
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<td>1. 45 Kauri Point Road Reserve</td>
<td>LOT 335 DP 17523</td>
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<td>2. Arama Reserve</td>
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<td>3. Arapito Plantation Reserve</td>
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<td>4. Beverly Hills Scenic</td>
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<td>5. Bill Haresnape Walk</td>
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<td>CT 97/68(PT)</td>
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<td>Local Purpose</td>
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<td>6. Bishop Park</td>
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<td>CT 778/154</td>
<td>Scenic Purpose</td>
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### Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan

#### Part One - Introduction and Background

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3.0 Strategic Context

This section contains the background information relating to the strategic framework within which the Reserve Management Plan must be prepared.

3.1 Waitakere City Council Strategic Framework

Waitakere City Council has developed seven strategies to achieve the vision for Waitakere. The ‘Strategies’ that relate to this Reserve Management Plan are Social, Environment, Cultural Wellbeing, Growth Management and Transport. These strategies inform the ‘Strategic Outcomes’ that in turn work towards achieving the ‘Community Outcomes’.

3.1.1 Social

“Strong, skilled and connected communities and neighbourhoods”

The strategic outcomes seek to build strong, resilient communities and leadership and great living places by developing Waitakere’s community infrastructure and assets and creating built and natural environments that are accessible, sustainable and promote the health and wellbeing of all people.

The Council’s programme of works specific to parks and open space include Project Twin Streams and the continued providing of recreation facilities, youth centres, playgrounds and sports parks within communities.

This reflects the Strong Communities Community Outcome:

- Waitakere has a strong sense of connection and networks of community so people feel safe and have a sense of belonging
- We are civil to and respectful of each other, have a good work life balance and contribute to our City, community, friends and family

3.1.2 Environment

“Network of green, clear air, clean water and nothing wasted”

The strategic outcome seeks to protect and enhance the Green Network: Native forests, full of native birds, linking streams of native fish. This will be achieved by maintaining, protecting and enhancing the natural environment; enabling community care and conservation of the green network; undertaking weed and pest management to support native biodiversity.

The Council’s programme of works specific to Parks and Open Space include Parks maintenance and development; Project Twin Streams; Iwi consultation and engagement; weed and pest initiatives and green network projects and incentives.

This reflects the Community Outcomes for the Green Network, Waiora – Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development:

- People are in harmony with and have a strong sense of stewardship, of kaitiaki of the natural environment
- We are actively managing our growth and minimising ecological threats particularly through increased local participation in decisions and action
- We manage our growth in a way that increases our sustainability and enables a healthy living environment
- We have access to good quality water and air and we manage our energy, waste and water innovatively and responsibly
- Replenishment of nature’s food chain of tiriwa, (the flora and fauna)
- Maori and non Maori respect and appreciate the City’s natural taonga/wonders

3.1.3 Cultural Wellbeing

“We all feel we belong, treasuring our diversity, creativity, culture and heritage”

The strategic outcome seeks to ensure our heritage is identified, protected and promoted. This is will be achieved through advocating for heritage consideration in planning processes and working with Iwi partners and the local community.
Part One - Introduction and Background

The Reserve Management Plan is developed in consultation with the local community, Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua. The policies and objectives of the Plan reflect the cultural history of the local area.

This reflects the Community Outcomes of Mauri Ora – Access to Maori Resources and Vibrant Arts and Culture:

- Celebration of the City’s unique and rich tribal and Maori history
- Cultural knowledge within a traditional and contemporary context is valid and relevant
- Waitakere City’s arts and culture is reflected and appreciated in our everyday life and the City is itself a work of art

3.2 Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan

The Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (adopted 2009) has been developed in accordance with Waitakere City’s Greenprint and provides guidelines for the management of parks within the City. The Strategic Plan outlines an integrated vision for the future of Waitakere City parks and proposes ten objectives to provide a framework for all park management.

The objectives are:

1. To Protect and Enhance a Resilient Waitakere Ecosystem
2. Ensure Equitable Access and Diversity of Recreational Opportunities and Experiences
3. Shape Urban Form Through Community Character and Interweaving Natural and Built Environments
4. Empower Communities with Stewardship and Sense of Identity
5. Celebrate and Protect Culture and Heritage
6. Continually Improve Planning and Management of Open Spaces and Seek Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Environments.

3.3 Weed Strategy

The goal of the Waitakere City Council 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.
3.4 Draft 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;
- 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.

area. The vision for freshwater habitats is to have a continually vegetated riparian margin along streams, with inanga and giant kökopu becoming common in streams. For the urban area, the vision is for expansion and enhancement of the native forests in the urban area, having kereru visit gardens in the urban area and wildlife refugees established in reserves.

3.5 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The purpose of this Strategy is to refocus polices and actions already adopted by Council to propose new actions to ensure good biodiversity outcomes from all land management practices. Waitakere has an obligation to protect indigenous biodiversity, under legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The vision for biodiversity in Waitakere has been divided into four categories. These are forests, freshwater habitats, coast and the urban area. Relevant to this Management Plan are the visions for freshwater habitats and the urban area. The vision for freshwater habitats is to have a continually vegetated riparian margin along streams, with inanga and giant kökopu becoming common in streams. For the urban area, the vision is for expansion and enhancement of the native forests in the urban area, having kereru visit gardens in the urban area and wildlife refugees established in reserves.

3.6 Te Kawerau A Maki Trust Resource Management Statement

In 1840, John White, a travelling European in the west, observes that "in the produce of the land and sea, Kawerau do not pay tribute to any chief, nor could they be commanded by any adjoining tribe or hapu to assist in any act whatever, nor could a chief go to any of the Kawerau fishing grounds without the express permission of the Kawerau people" (Rules Section, District Plan 1998 p3).

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.

3.7 Ngati Whatua

Ngati Whatua exercises kaitiakitanga over the material and non-material resources of their tribal area through their relationship with Council (see section 6 RMA91). 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 same area.
These ancestral resources since 1840, the time of European settlement, have declined dramatically. Ngati Whatua through their relationship with Council therefore seeks:

- the restoration of the mauri and protection of waterways
- the restoration and protection of biodiversity.
- The restoration and protection of customary practices such as food gathering.

4.0 Management Plan Objectives

4.1 An Integrated Vision for the Reserves

The 68 local reserves are viewed in this Management Plan in a holistic fashion. Also, individuality and variations in the Reserves have been taken into consideration.

The Waitakere Ranges environment in which the reserves exist is dynamic, diverse and sensitive and forms a significant part of Waitakere City’s landscape. The native forest contributes immensely to the significance and value of the reserves, even in highly modified (ecologically) areas of the eastern foothills and community centres. The primary focus of this Management Plan therefore is; the preservation of natural areas, vegetation restoration of the highly modified areas, enhancing public access opportunities through the reserves, to promote and provide for the recreational and social values of the coast, and to manage and preserve cultural heritage values found in the reserves.

4.2 Approach to Preparing Policies

This plan has drafted policies that consider the key objectives of this Management Plan and the desires of the community.

The objectives and policies will be a guide for the future management of Waitakere Ward’s local reserves, and will reflect the existing uses and values of the parks. The concept plans in Part Three of this Management Plan will present the objectives and policies in a visual manner.

Marama Stream, Marama Plantation Reserve
4.3 Community Expectations for Waitakere Ward Reserves

The process of preparing this Management Plan began with public notification of the intention to prepare a Reserve Management Plan in May 2009. An Advisory Group including members of the Waitakere Ward Councillors, Waitakere Community Board members, and Council staff was established to oversee the development of the Plan.

The final draft plan was approved in June for public submissions. Once submissions have been received and assessed appropriate amendments will be made to this draft plan. It will then be taken to the Waitakere Community Board for adoption.

5.0 Reserve Value Descriptions

5.1 Natural Environment

5.1.1 Geology and Soils

The Waitakere Ranges were formed through a culmination of submarine and volcanic sediment deposition and erosion from the strong westerly winds and ocean currents. These processes occurred over a period of many millions of years. The ranges seen today have been uplifted from the ocean floor to rise above the Tasman Sea.

During the early Miocene Period (22-15 million years ago) the Auckland region was submerged below sea level in a form called the Waitemata Basin. Within this basin layers of sandstone and mudstone accumulated.

To the west of the Waitemata Basin was the Waitakere Volcano: A mammoth volcano that grew from continuous activity over a period of 6-7 million years. A combination of large scale volcanic deposits and undersea marine erosion facilitated the spread of volcanic material eastwards with finer material being swept furthest into the Waitemata Basin.

Around 16 -10 million years ago the eruptions of the Waitakere Volcano reduced and eventually ceased altogether. It was during this time of reduced activity that a period of uplifting pushed the volcano above sea level. When volcanic activity ceased the volcano was left to the corrosive powers of the wind and the sea which worked to reduce the size of the landmass above sea level. This period of sustained erosion eventually removed the entire volcano visible above sea level by 5 million years ago.

Throughout this period sandstone and mudstone continued to accumulate in the Waitemata Basin covering the volcanic deposits.

During the past 5 million years there have been further periods of uplifting and tilting along with erosion that have combined to create the formation of the ranges as they are today. Erosion from wind and water has removed large quantities of the Waitemata Sandstone layers exposing the harder volcanic rocks beneath.

The different periods of deposition, uplifting and erosion have left a spread of rock types across the ranges and eastern foothills. The central and western ranges contain weakly layered volcanic conglomerate and breccia which formed the eastern slopes of volcano. The eastern and northern slopes of the ranges consist of finer grained volcanic sediments that were swept further from the volcano into the Waitemata Basin and accumulated along with the Waitemata sandstones.

5.1.2 Vegetation

The Ward falls within the Waitakere, Tamaki and Rodney Ecological Districts. The Waitakere ecological district is characterised by a large and continuous block of native vegetation making up the Waitakere Ranges. The Waitakere Ranges are significant within the Auckland region as they, along with the Hunua Ranges are the two largest blocks of native forest left in the region. Due to the size of the ranges they contain a high level of vegetation and wildlife diversity.

During pre-European times the ranges contained a dense podocarp and broadleaf forest with Kauri forests present on the eastern slopes and ridges. Modification by early Maori was restricted to coastal areas both, along the west coast and the Manukau Harbour. By the time the first European
Part One - Introduction and Background

European settlers to the Waitakere Ranges undertook further modification by way of farming and logging native timber such as Kauri, Kahikatea, Totara, Rimu, Matai and Tawa. These activities were extensive and there are few areas of pre-European forest left. Today, the majority of the vegetated ranges are made up of regenerating native vegetation.

The vegetation types present include podocarp species such as tanekaha, rimu and kauri and broadleaf species such as Puriri and Kohekohe along with extensive Kanuka and Mānuka forests. An ecological assessment of the local reserves within the Ward (Te Ngahere, March 2010) also found that a large number of pest plant species were present.

The local reserves within the Ward all fall within the Warm Lowlands Ecosystem as described in Waitakere City Council’s “Native to the West: A Guide for planting and restoring the nature of Waitakere City”. The habitat present within the local reserves is similar across the Ward with no reserve containing ecologically unique features. The vegetation classes did however vary between reserves and included the following: Medium density mixed (broadleaf and podocarp) bush, medium to low density broadleaf, medium density regenerating bush and open space areas with grass and hard landscaping.

Local reserves containing notable forest types included Warner Walk – Medium density podocarp, Tanekaha Reserve – High density podocarp, Takahe Reserve – High density bush and Waitoru Reserve – High density mixed bush.

The majority of local reserves within the Ward are less than one hectare with boundaries adjoining several of private properties. These characteristics exacerbate the threats to biodiversity and a dynamic ecosystem by increasing edge effects such as reduced species abundance and changes in species interactions associated with changes to the physical environment. Weed infestation and garden encroachment are common place in reserves throughout the ward. The extent of weed infestation varies across the reserves however there are a number of reserves that are devoid of native vegetation and have come to be covered entirely with exotic weed species; an example being Lookout Reserve in Laingholm.

Common weed species found throughout the local reserves are: wild ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), elephants ear (*Alocasia brisbanensis*), gorse (*Ulex spp.*), blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*), brush wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*), bamboo (*Phyllostachys species*), arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*), velvet groundsel (*Roldana petasitis*), tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), shrub balsam (*Impatiens sodenii*), plectranthus (*Plectranthus ciliatus*) and montbretia (*Crocosmia X crocosmiiflora*).
The vegetation within the local reserves is an important feature of the ecological system operating within the greater Waitakere Ranges. The diversity of species along with the reserves’ size and shape provides habitat to native fauna as well as connections and corridors between green infrastructure within Waitakere and the wider Auckland region.

5.1.3 Fauna

The warm lowland forest of the Waitakere Ranges provides valuable habitat for a range of bird, insect and reptile species. While no species is restricted to the Waitakere Ranges, the ranges are one of two significant large forested areas within the Auckland Region, their importance as a habitat for these species is significant.

Common native bird species found within the ranges and present within the local reserves include, tui, kereru, fantail, grey warbler and silver eye. Many introduced bird species are also found throughout the local reserves, these include, sparrows, mallard ducks and myna birds.

Terrestrial vegetation has the potential to provide important habitat for invertebrates and potentially lizards. Several lizard species may be present in the local reserves, including the green gecko.

Threats to fauna are both plant and animal pests. Plant pests are listed in the section above and have the potential to smother, shade and out-compete native species. Animal pests also pose a threat to fauna and their supporting vegetative habitat through eating large amounts of foliage, destroying tree trunks and root systems and by destroying nests and killing birds and their chicks as well as skinks and geckos. Animal pests present in the Waitakere ranges include, possum, pigs, wild cats, rats, mice and stoats.

Other threats to native habitat include subdivision of land, clearance for residential development, domestic animals and increased visitor numbers using tracks increasing the potential for the introduction of pest species from outside of the region via unclean footwear.

5.1.4 Landscape

“The Waitakere Ranges (part of a remnant volcanic landform) are the western visual backdrop to metropolitan Auckland. Their forested hills and coastal vistas are essential to the identity of both Waitakere City and metropolitan Auckland. The foothills and coastal areas are a combination of rural, urban, and natural landscapes that create an important transition and buffer zone to the forested part of the Ranges.” (Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008)

The Waitakere Ward is a visually dominant region of the City with the ranges and eastern foothills providing a backdrop to the western skyline of the Auckland region. The Waitakere Ranges are tall, broad and heavily vegetated with native bush which contrasts significantly with the highly intensive development of metropolitan Auckland. Within close proximity to the urban suburbs the ranges and eastern foothills provide a semi-rural escape for both residents and visitors alike. The open space and native bush provides a relatively untouched landscape or wilderness area where the natural environment dominates the built and a sense of solitude prevails.

The majority of the ward is described in the District Plan as being an ‘Outstanding Landscape’. Local reserves that are located within these areas are Waitoru Reserve, Scenic Drive North Plantation Reserve, Handley Plantation Reserve, Minnehaha Reserve, Huia Scenic Reserve, Karamatura Reserve and Marama Plantation Reserve.
In addition the regional significance of the Ranges has been recognized by the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. This Act recognizes the significance of the Waitakere Ranges and the eastern foothills and promotes the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations. The heritage area and its features include the semi rural villages of the eastern foothills and the residential ‘bush living’ areas of Waiatarua, Titirangi, Laingholm and the Coastal Villages of Huia and Little Huia.

The local reserves of the Ward are generally small in size and are surrounded by residential development. The landscape characteristics of reserves vary between the eastern foothills semi-rural communities and the more intensively developed bush living neighbourhoods of Waiatarua and the Manukau coastline. The reserves in the eastern foothills are located within areas dominated by pasture and orchards and are afforded extensive views of the surrounding valleys and the bush covered ranges. Local reserves within the bush living communities tend to be vegetated with native bush and contribute to the visual appearance of continuous bush cover within these communities. The bush covered reserves also work to maintain the dominance of the natural landscape over the built environment; they preserve a sense of quiet and wilderness within the more intensively developed communities of Waiatarua, Titirangi, Laingholm and Huia. These characteristics set the ward apart from the urban areas of the City.

The many statutory and non statutory documents that govern development within the Ward all recognize and seek to protect the regionally significant natural landscape character of the ranges and eastern foothills, while acknowledging and providing for the communities that reside in the ward. This Reserve Management Plan shall seek to reflect and be consistent with this direction.

There are many reserves in the Ward that contain overland flow paths and streams. The majority of the reserves are located within the bush covered area of the ranges where the waterways are naturally occurring. A number of reserves however contain stormwater outlets and ponds; for example the swamp area at the eastern side of Rahui Kahika Reserve is maintained as a stormwater pond.

Stormwater outfalls into riparian areas can increase rates of erosion of stream sides within the reserves. The outfall structure itself, can also detract from the overall amenity values of the reserves.

5.2 Cultural Heritage and History

5.2.1 Pre-European History

Reports from Te Kawerau A Maki and Ngāti Whatua are currently being prepared. Both Te Kawerau A Maki and Ngāti Whatua were consulted as part of the process to prepare this Reserve Management Plan.

5.2.2 European Heritage and Sites of Significance

In 1835 Thomas Mitchell became the first European settler to purchase land from Maori resident at Karangahape pa on Puponga Point (Cornwallis). In 1838 the Manukau and Waitemata Land Company bought the land from his widow with plans to build a town on the foreshore of the Manukau Harbour, what is now regional parkland at Cornwallis. The first immigrants to settle in the area arrived in 1841. While maps show a carefully planned town centre at Cornwallis the Waitemata harbour proved to be a more reliable source of transportation than the Manukau with its prominent sand bars and treacherous entrance at the Manukau Heads. The township as a consequence was ultimately unsuccessful and the settlement largely abandoned.

More land purchases were made in Huia, Karekare and Piha and the timber mills were established as the government issued licences to log the native timber, Kauri (Agathis australis)
...being favoured. Eventually there were timber mills located throughout the Ranges. Logs were initially transported across the Manukau Harbour to Onehunga from Huia and via Whatipu Wharf which was serviced by a tramline that ran along the coastline from Piha and Karekare.

During the 1850s and 1860s the Waitakere ranges were subdivided by the government and sold to new settlers who cleared bush and established small farms and orchards. Many sections were also bought by wealthy businessmen who often did not reside in the area. The road access to coastal settlements beyond Titirangi and Swanson was limited and often consisted of poorly formed bridleways which made travelling difficult particularly when wet. Local politics between residents and absent landowners meant that road improvements did not occur until the 1890s. As a result the coastal areas of Huia, Parau and Laingholm remained sparsely populated.

In addition to logging and timber milling, other economic activities included flax mills, small scale cattle farming and extraction of Kauri gum. The eastern foothills were also cleared during this time and fruit and vegetable orchards were established. By the early 1900s many properties within the central ranges were abandoned or purchased by the then Auckland City Council for water supply. The majority of this land has reverted to bush and forms the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.

**Titirangi**

Early European settlers in the Titirangi area included Mr and Mrs J. Bishop and the Atkinson family. Mr Bishop purchased 227 acres in 1855 which was cleared for farmland. The entrance to the property ‘Bishops Gate’ was located on Titirangi Road near the intersection with Rangiwai Road. The Bishop family continued to reside in the area after the death of John Bishop with his wife and two sons, Thomas and John, being active members of the community organising the construction of the Titirangi War Memorial Church on Park Road and being founding members of the Returned Services Association.

Henry Atkinson bought land in Titirangi in the 1880s including a large area of Atkinson Valley (South Titirangi) and land around Mt Atkinson. The land was farmed until the early 1900s when sections were transferred to the Auckland City Council for the water supply catchment. Henry Atkinson also gifted the city Mt Atkinson Park, Bishops Park and the Titirangi School site.

**Laingholm**

The Laingholm area was settled by George Laing in 1853 who cleared the land for farming. The 610 acres included all of the present Laingholm area between Little Muddy Creek and Big Muddy Creek at Parau.

The Laing Farm was eventually subdivided into small lots in the 1920s. Farming was abandoned in the area and the native bush began regenerating to create the bush living environment of today. The Laingholm Residents and Ratepayers Association was formed at the time of subdivision supporting the construction of community facilities. Community Halls were built on land which became public reserves. A community hall was built at Laingholm beach with a second hall built on Victory Road in the 1940s.

**Oratia**

The Oratia Valley has a strong history of European settlement and horticultural activity that has endured to the present day. Early European settlers arrived in the Oratia Valley in the 1850s. A strong community identity has developed over the past 150 years around the continued presence of founding families and horticultural activity.

Early land use revolved around logging of native timber and kauri gum digging and cleared land was used for sheep and cattle farming. The early 1900s saw the arrival of Yugoslavic settlers who were instrumental in spread of orchards and vineyards throughout the Oratia Valley.

The site of the Oratia Hall Reserve has been utilised for community use since the early 1920s when a co-operative packing shed was erected in 1924. The shed was also utilised as a community hall. Unfortunately in 1927 the packing shed was badly...
Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan

Part One - Introduction and Background

Waitakere Townships is located at the foot of the north eastern ranges alongside the railway line that runs from Helensville in the north to downtown Auckland. The government bought land from Ngati Whatua of Kaipara in 1853 and the land was subsequently surveyed into rural farm blocks. The township was slow to attract settlers. The most prominent farm was owned by James Dilworth. The farm supplied beef and mutton to the surrounding settlement and timber loggers and gum diggers working the nearby Ranges.

Access to the township remained poor for sometime with McEntee Road being the first road to be surveyed and provided direct access to the Dilworth Farm. Even with road access and the railway line settlement in the area remained sparse and today Waitakere Township continues as a small rural community.

The Waitakere War Memorial Park is located at the site of an old landfill site and now contains playing fields, a community hall and a playground.

Waitakere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan

5.3 Recreation and Use

5.3.1 Types of Reserves

The 68 local reserves covered by this Management Plan differ in size, character and use. The Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan 2009 defines the different categories of Open Space (determined by the predominant use).

The local reserves within this management plan fall within the following categories:

- **Active.** This reserve provides large open space developed for active recreation opportunities.
• **Bush.** There are 38 reserves within this category. These area areas that are predominantly protected bush and natural habitat. The reserves may contain bush walks.

• **Civic Space.** There is one reserve that provides a high use, high quality town centre open space area.

• **Community.** Three reserves fall within this category. These are medium sized areas that provide amenity and informal recreational opportunities for a number of neighbourhoods.

• **Community Facility.** There are four reserves that are predominantly used for the provision of a community facility.

• **Esplanade.** There are three reserves within this category. These are stream esplanades and may contain walkways and access opportunities.

• **Neighbourhood.** There are four reserves within this category. These are small areas that provide amenity for a small neighbourhood area.

• **Walkway.** There are ten walkway reserves. These are access strips for access/linkage opportunities through urban areas.

Over half of the local reserves are ‘bush’ reserves that form part of the City’s Green Network. While some reserves contain walkways; many are solely protected bush and habitats that provide a buffer between or corridors through built-up areas and the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.

The balance of the local reserves provide an interactive function such as the provision of community facilities, playgrounds and urban amenity.

5.3.2 Facilities

The local reserves offer both formal and informal recreational opportunities. Activities range from walkways, picnic areas, playgrounds and sports fields to community halls, the Titirangi Library and the Huia Volunteer Fire Station.

This Reserve Management Plan aims to maintain and enhance opportunities to recreate for people of all abilities on the reserves.

Reserves that provide multiple community facilities include:

- **Titirangi War Memorial Library**
  - Community Centre, Community Hall, Plunket Rooms, Playcentre

- **Oratia Hall Reserve**
  - Oratia Settlers Hall, Small Hall, outdoor picnic area

- **Waitakere War Memorial Park**
  - Community Hall, Playground, Sports Fields

- **Laingholm Hall Reserve Community Hall**
  - Tennis Court, Playcentre, Old Doctors Rooms

5.3.3 Community Facilities and Leases

There is a range of facilities in the various reserves, some of which are provided and managed by Council, others by Community groups themselves. These include:

- **Karamatura Reserve**
  - The Huia Fire Station is located on Karamatura Reserve, 1282 -1284 Huia Road, Huia (LOT 7 DP 45463, 2021m2). The New Zealand Fire Service – Huia has been a longstanding lease holder on the reserve with the station being manned by The Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 2008 the Fire Service was granted a five (5) year lease that commenced on 01 May 2008, expiring on 30 April 2013; with a five (5) year right of renewal to 30 April 2018.

- **Laingholm Village Hall Reserve**
  - The Laingholm Village Hall Reserve comprises three lots at 69 Victory Road (LOT 39 DP 19099) and 4 Lookout Drive (LOT 40 DP 19099, LOT 41 DP 19099). Three organisations hold leases to operate on the site.

- **Laingholm Playcentre**
  - The Laingholm Playcentre has been located on the site since 1988. The Auckland Playcentre
Association holds the right to lease part of 4 Lookout Drive. The building is located on Lot 41 DP 19099. A further portion of land (11.52m²) of Lot 40 is included in the lease for play equipment. The lease was granted on 01 December 1988 for a period of 23 years to 2011, with a 10 year right of renewal finally expiring on 30 November 2021.

Laingholm Village Hall

The Laingholm and District Citizens Association hold a temporary lease of the Laingholm Village Hall at 69 Victory Road (LOT 39 DP 19099). The Association organises the use and booking of the hall by members of the public. The temporary lease began on 26 May 2008. An application for a new lease has been made.

Ex Doctors Room

The Laingholm Roundabout a community magazine/newsletter is produced from the Ex Doctors Rooms located at 4 Lookout Drive (Lot 40 DP 19099). Laingholm Roundabout Incorporated has made an application for a new lease. In the interim a temporary lease is in place that began 11 September 2008.

Oratia Hall Reserve

Oratia Ratepayers and Residents Association Incorporated has the right to lease the Oratia Hall Reserve. The lease was granted on 01 September 1987 for a period of thirty-three years, with one right of renewal for a further term of thirty-three years.

Titirangi War Memorial Reserve

The Titirangi War Memorial Reserve (PT LOT 17 DP 6678) is 1.8011 hectares and contains a number of buildings that are leased by community organisations.
The Titirangi Returned Service Association Incorporated has the right to lease Clubrooms (540m²). The lease was granted on 01 March 1987 for a period of 33 years, expiring on 29 February 2020.

The Titirangi RSA Bowling Club Incorporated has the right to lease an area 1400m² adjacent to the clubrooms. The lease was granted on 01 March 1988 for a period of 32 years, subject to review every three (3) years.

The Auckland Playcentre Association - Titirangi has the right to lease a building. The lease was granted on 01 December 2007 for a period of five (5) years with a five year right of renewal finally expiring on 30 November 2017. The lease is subject to review every one (1) year.

The New Zealand Plunket Society Incorporated held the right to lease a building. The lease was granted on 01 October 2002 for a period of five years, expiring on 30 September 2007. The lease did not include a right of renewal however an application for a new lease has been submitted.

The Titirangi Community House Incorporated has the right to lease a building. The lease was granted on 01 July 2001 for a period of five years. The lease was renewed for a further 5 years, finally expiring on 30 June 2011. The lease is subject to review every two (2) year.

Woodlands Park

Woodlands Park Community Kindergarten Incorporated held the right to lease the Woodlands Park Hall for a period of 10 years ending on 30 September 2008. The Kindergarten has applied for a new lease to the Hall.

Waitakere War Memorial Park

The Waitakere Residents and Ratepayers Association have applied to renew the lease of the Community Hall.

5.3.4 Community and Cultural Values

The reserves of the Waitakere Ward contribute greatly to the sense of place for the communities that surround them. They add to community identity and belonging, and through their function play an important role in the overall fabric of the city. The reserves also play an important role in contributing to the inherent social values of the resident’s lives in the city through providing attractive areas of green relief. Potentially, the reserves are places for people to meet, to engage with views of the landscape and the Waitakere Ranges environment, to engage with ecological values and are places where a community spirit can be gained.

There is potential in the reserves to strengthen the characteristics that contribute to sense of place in communities through strengthening the inherent social value of the reserves. Methods that explore the strengthening of the reserves inherent values are outlined in the objectives and policies of the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan. This Reserve Management Plan provides objectives and policies that are specific to the reserves within the Ward and aim to protect and enhance the community and cultural values of the reserves and their surrounding community.

The reserves have the potential to be inspiration, or a canvas upon which the community can express what is important to them about where they live. This can be achieved through art projects and community lead projects with support from the Council. This can strengthen sense of place and ownership and is particularly important in places that are lacking in a cohesive community identity.
One clear aim of this Reserve Management Plan is to increase opportunities for people to enjoy nature on reserves. This can be achieved through encouraging community ownership of reserves, through the establishment of community groups to undertake weed management and revegetation of reserves.

How communities use the parks can reveal how the reserves are valued. A number of different cultural groups live in the suburban areas that surround the parks. The needs of such community groups need to be reflected in the future management and design of the reserves.

5.3.5 Promotion and Education of Reserve Values

It is desirable that reserve values discussed in this section be promoted in both communities and within the local reserves of the Waitakere Ward, where possible. Working with and establishing community groups and working with local schools is one way to achieve this.

Many reserves within the bush living areas are not identifiable as reserves. In many instances this is due to the lack of public access or because the main function of the reserve is to protect it’s intrinsic value or ecological value.

Provision should be made for signage within the street network that indicates the reserves, and wider street connections through the reserves. Bollard signs can be used to provide discrete directional. Interpretation signage is also desirable within reserves to indicate points of interest and reserve values, such as heritage features and ecological values in and adjacent to reserves. Using art to explore the representation of such values is also an option, where budget allows.

Nikau Grove, Takahe Reserve