

# WAITĀKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA

## Local Parks Design Guidelines

Adopted December 2018



Figure 1. Luke Harvey, 2014  
Cover Image: Huia, Jay Farnworth, 2014

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Figure 2. Kauri tree, Jay Farnworth, 2015.

## 1.0 Overview

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# 1.1 Purpose

## 1.1.1 The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area comprises some 27,000 hectares of public and private land. It includes the majority of the Waitākere Ranges as well parts of its surrounding foothills, harbour and coastal areas. The Waitākere Ranges Regional Park makes up approximately 17,000 hectares of this area. The heritage area is an iconic and unique landscape that is of great significance to residents, tangata whenua and visitors alike.

The heritage area is characterised by its:

- exceptional landscape, beauty and aesthetic values;
- unique native forests, wetland, streams, lakes and dunes;
- recreational opportunities;
- ecological diversity and wildlife;
- inspirational, artistic and spiritual values;
- associations and sites of significance to tangata whenua;
- European heritage sites
- clean water;
- importance to the tourism, recreation and film industries; and
- attractiveness as a living environment.

### The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

The local, regional and national significance of the heritage area has been recognised by the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act which promotes the protection and enhancement of the heritage features of the area, for present and future generations.

#### The heritage features outlined in the Act include:

- the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of prominent indigenous character;
- the different classes of natural landforms and landscapes;
- the coastal areas;
- the natural functioning streams;
- the quietness and darkness of the Waitākere Ranges and coastal parts of the area;
- the visual backdrop to the Auckland Metropolitan Area;
- the opportunities provided for wilderness experiences, recreation and relaxation;
- the eastern foothills;
- the subservience of the built environment to the area's natural and rural landscape;
- the historical, traditional and cultural relationships of the people, communities and tangata whenua within the area;
- evidence of past human activities;
- its distinctive local communities
- the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park; and
- the public water catchment and supply system.

## The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Objectives

Section 8 of the Act sets out the objectives of establishing and maintaining the heritage area, including:

- *protecting, restoring, and enhancing the heritage features and the heritage area;*
- *ensuring that 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 endeavoring to protect heritage features when considering decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on 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 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 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 ecosystems in the area to protect and enhance indigenous habitat values, landscape values, and amenity values;*
- *recognising that people live and work in the 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 Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.*

## 1.1.2 Local parks design guide

Local parks are located throughout the heritage area and cater to the needs of the local community. These open spaces provide recreational opportunities such as walking and tramping, breathtaking vistas of the rugged western coastline and the Manukau Harbour, streams and waterways, and enjoyment of indigenous vegetation and wildlife.

Due to the significance of the landscapes within the heritage area the Local Board has identified the need for a local parks design guide that encourages best practice outcomes that respect and enhance the heritage features identified

in the Act. The design guide will provide guidance to those involved in the design, development and future direction of the heritage area's local parks.

The Act states that particular regard must be given to the relevant objectives noted above when applying for Resource Consents within the heritage area. As not all planning or development within the heritage area requires Resource Consent, the intention is for this design guide to be used to guide development within local parks, regardless of the scale of the project. This will ensure that all park development will complement the natural and cultural environment of the Waitākere Ranges.

The Waitākere Ranges Regional Park is not addressed as part of this design guide. The design principles and guidance within this document can however be applied to development on regional parkland. As many local parks sit adjacent to regional parkland this would provide continuity to the network of open spaces within this heritage area.

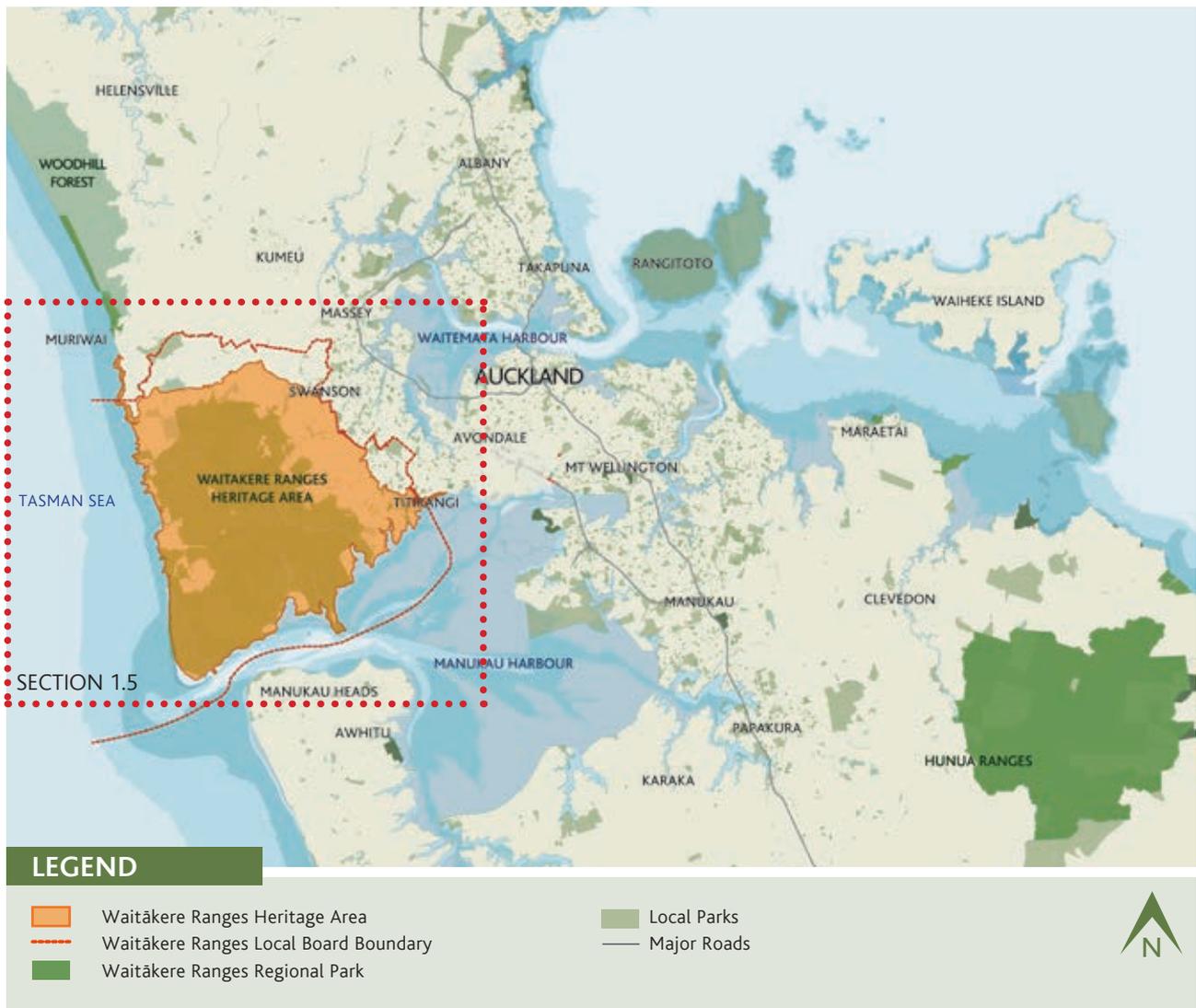
### 1.1.3 Auckland context map

Located on Auckland's west coast the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is bound by metropolitan Auckland to the east, the Tasman Sea to the west, the Manukau Harbour to the south and the Waitākere Valley to the north.

The area is dominated by the bush covered Waitākere Ranges that rise up from the Tasman Sea and Manukau Harbour, and also includes the eastern foothills which provide a semi-rural buffer between the highly populated areas of metropolitan Auckland and the native bush of the ranges.

Most of the heritage area is located within Waitākere City, with a small portion located in Rodney District.

Refer section 1.5 for an enlargement of the heritage area showing the locations of local parks.



## 1.2 The role of stakeholder groups

### 1.2.1 Auckland Council

This design guide relates to local parks located within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area which are owned and managed by Auckland Council.

Many of these local parks connect to, adjoin, or provide important ecological links and corridors into both the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (also managed by Auckland Council) and parks managed by the Department of Conservation (DoC).

While regional parkland is not addressed as part of this guide, Auckland Council may choose to apply the principles and guidance in this document to developments within regional parkland.

Local parks fulfill a range of recreational, cultural and social functions. They are primarily designed for needs of the immediate community, although a number of the local parks located along the West Coast beaches and on the Manukau Harbour attract high numbers of visitors from the wider Auckland region. Auckland Council has the role of ensuring that all development within these local parks protects, restores and enhances the area, as well as the heritage features outlined within the Act.

### 1.2.2 Waitākere Ranges Local Board

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board has a significant and wide-ranging role. They make decisions on local matters, provide local leadership and build strong local communities.

The local board are responsible for initiating most development or renewal projects on local parks, including allocating funding and making final resolutions on these projects.

### 1.2.3 Mana whenua

While it is recognised that the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is of interest to other iwi and hapu, Te Kawerau a Maki are the local iwi of the West Coast and are associated with this geographic location and area through the traditions, songs, place names, and histories of it's people.

Their mana whenua status is established through tika tupuna (ancestral rights), ahi kā (occupation), and kaitiakitanga (guardianship and management of cultural and natural resources). Te Kawerau have been consulted with and have provided input into these design guidelines.

Iwi play an important role in the design process for local parks within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and are typically consulted on park projects located within the heritage area. Consultation may include (but is not limited to) the incorporation of the seven following Te Aranga Māori Design Principles:

#### Te Aranga Māori design principles



##### Mana

**Rangatiratanga, Authority** - The status of iwi and hapū as mana whenua is recognised and respected



##### Whakapapa

**Names & Naming** - Māori names are celebrated



##### Taiao

**The Natural Environment** - The natural environment is protected, restored and / or enhanced



##### Mauri Tu

**Environmental Health** - Environmental health is protected, maintained and / or enhanced



##### Mahi Toi

**Creative Expression** - Iwi/hapū narratives are captured and expressed creatively and appropriately



##### Tohu

**The Wider Cultural Landscape** - Mana whenua significant sites and cultural landmarks are acknowledged



##### Ahi Kā

**Living Presence** - Iwi/hapū have a living and enduring presence and are secure and valued within their rohe

### 1.2.4 Local communities

The communities of Te Henga (Bethells Beach), Swanson, Henderson Valley, Oratia, Waitatarua, Cornwallis, Waima, Woodlands Park, Titirangi, Laingholm, Huia, Parau, Piha and Karekare have a strong history of involvement and interest in issues relating to the environment of the Waitākere Ranges.

Local communities have had input into these design guidelines. Comments, suggestions and design ideas from Local Board workshops, a workshop with the combined Waitākere Ranges Residents and Ratepayers association in late 2017, and feedback from the Waitākere Ranges Protection Society (WRPS) were used to inform the draft version of the design guidelines that went out for public consultation.

Public consultation was carried out between 12th February and the 13th April 2018, and comprised of a series of public open days and feedback gathered via Shape Auckland. The feedback received has been used to inform the design guidelines.

Additionally, when significant park projects within the heritage area are proposed, the local community may be consulted on the draft design prior to implementation when appropriate.

# 1.3 How to use this guide

The following process should be followed by those involved in the design, development and future direction of local parks within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area:

Understand the overriding policy context (Section 1.4)

- Resource Management Act 1991
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- Auckland Unitary Plan
- Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008
- Local Area Plans [Laps]
- Reserve Management Plans

Understand the purpose of the design guidelines, the role of the stakeholders and the heritage of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

## 1.0 Overview

Understand the landscape values of the local park environments

## 2.0 Local park environments

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Native Forest     | 5. Riparian               |
| 2. Coastal (Harbour) | 6. Thoroughfare/Accessway |
| 3. Coastal (Sea)     | 7. Village Centre         |
| 4. Open/Grassed      |                           |

Identify the proposed location, undertake site analysis and propose an initial design with reference to the relevant design guide section(s):

## 3.0 Design principles and guidance

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Park Furniture                                  | • Carparking                             |
| • Tracks, Paths, Boardwalks, Bridges and Lookouts | • Playgrounds, Hardcourts and Skateparks |
| • Barriers, Bollards, Retaining Walls and Gates   | • Planting                               |
| • Buildings, Shelters and Toilets                 | • Community Art                          |
|   | • Signage                                |



Design Accordingly

## 1.4 The policy context

This section briefly outlines how the design guide sits within its wider policy context.

### 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 is the overriding policy of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 (WRHAA)

### Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 1994

This Act promotes the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of the historic and cultural heritage of New Zealand. All archaeological sites are protected by the provisions of the Act. It is unlawful to damage or destroy an archaeological site without prior authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. Archaeological sites are defined as any building or structure associated with pre-1900 human activity, above and below ground, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand, including places of importance to tangata whenua.

### Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

Passed into law in April 2008, the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act (WRHAA) provides an additional layer of recognition of protection to the Waitākere Ranges and the eastern foothills. The purpose of the Act is:

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

Refer section 1.1 of this document for a list of the heritage features as outlined in the Act.

### Auckland Unitary Plan Regional Policy Statement 2016 and the Auckland Unitary Plan

#### Auckland Unitary Plan Regional Policy Statement

This document is a requirement under the RMA, and is about managing the use, development and protection of the natural resources in the region.

It must give effect to the purpose of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and the objectives of the Heritage Area.



#### Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP)

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Overlay gives effect to the purpose and objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, and to section B4.4 of the regional policy statement.

Refer section 1.5 for detailed description of the relevant AUP Open Space zones.

## Local Area Plans

Section 25(1) of the WRHAA provides for the preparation and adoption by Council of a Local Area Plan (LAP), for a local area located within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. These plans represent the outcomes of conversations, meetings and workshops with members of the local community, iwi, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Auckland Council and its Council Controlled Organisations (CCO's). They reflect the shared values and aspirations of the participants of a local area.

LAP's are prepared to promote the purposes of the WRHAA and its objectives. They are used to inform the decision making processes that relate to the heritage area, through the establishment of long-term objectives for the area's future amenity, character and environment.

To date LAP's have been produced for the following areas:

- Oratia (2009)
- Waiatarua (2009)
- Henderson Valley/Opanuku (2010)
- Muddy Creeks (Parau, Laingholm, Woodlands Park and Waimā) (2013)
- Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River Valley (2015)

## Reserve Management Plans

There is a requirement under the WHRAA for council to provide an integrated reserve management plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

*The Regional Parks Management Plan (2010)* fulfills this requirement.

In addition, a number of other reserve management plans have been prepared for local parks within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, including:

- *Piha Reserves Management Plan (1999)*
- *Piha Coastal Management Plan (2000)*
- *Manukau Harbour Foreshore Reserves Management Plan (2002)*
- *Waitākere Ward Local Reserves Management Plan (2010)*
- *Te Henga Park Reserve Management Plan (2002)*
- *Swanson Reserves - Reserve Management Plan (2004)*

## Other documents

Other national inventories and guidelines to be taken into consideration include:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in New Zealand (CPTED)
- NZ Historic Places Trust Register

Other council documents include:

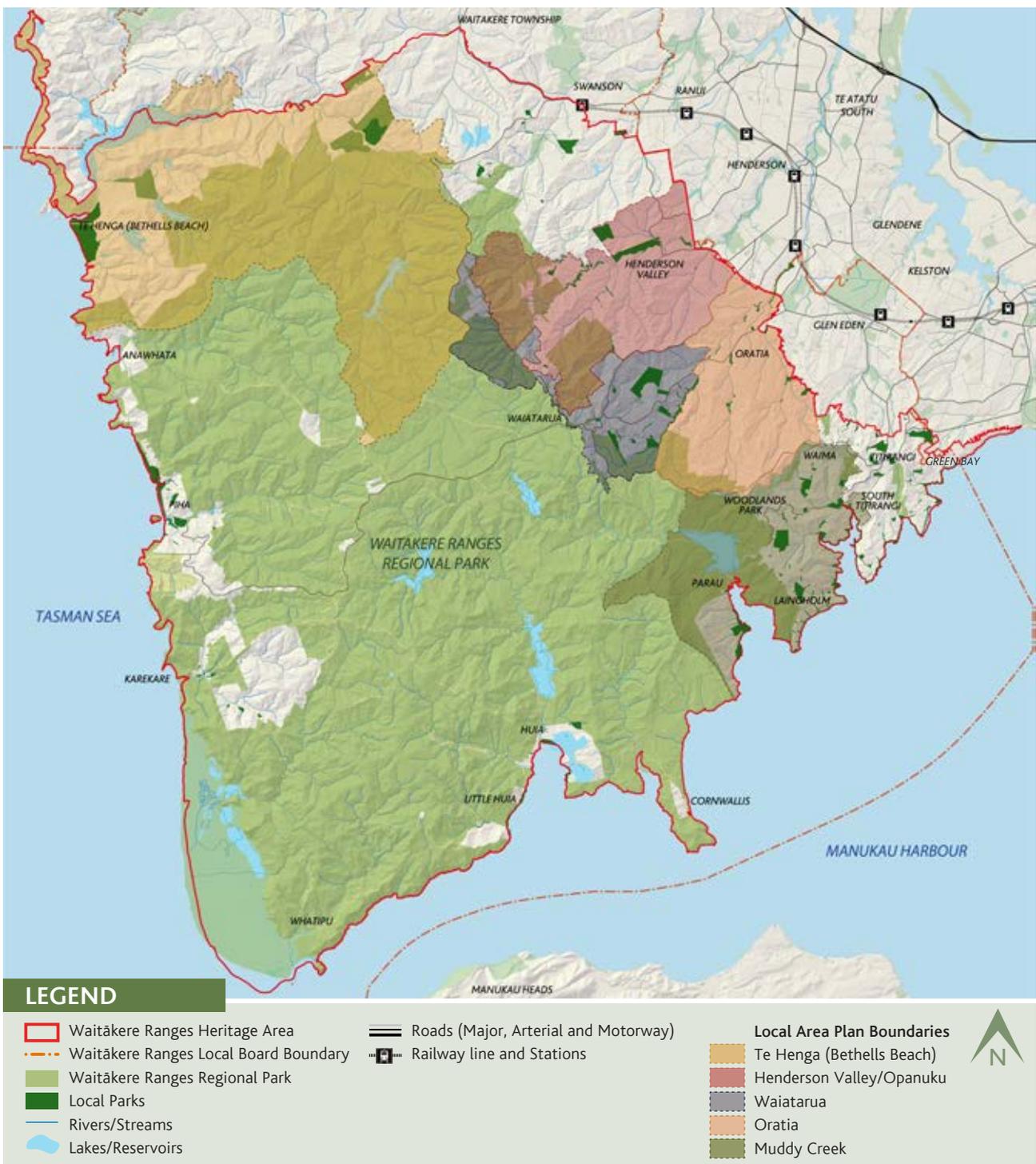
- Auckland Council Cultural Heritage Inventory
- Auckland Regional Threatened Plant List
- Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan
- Waitākere Ranges Foothills Design Guide
- Piha Area Design Guidelines
- Ecological Restoration Plan for Piha Beach Reserves
- The West Coast Plan
- Auckland Design Manual

# 1.5 The heritage area

Local parks owned by Auckland Council within the heritage area are the subject of this design guide. The following map shows that these parks are typically clustered around the coastal settlements of Te Henga (Bethells Beach), Piha and Karekare along the western coastline, along the Manukau Harbour foreshore, around the bush living environments from Laingholm to Green Bay, and on the foothills along the eastern edge of the ranges, from Swanson down to Oratia

and Waitatarua. Refer Appendix A for map enlargements.

The map also identifies Local Area Plan (LAP) boundaries. The LAP boundaries are shown for context only and while they represent distinct local communities within the heritage area, this design guide is structured around shared landscape qualities or park environment types (refer Section 2) rather than geographical areas.



## 1.6 Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

There are four different types of open space zoning that apply to local parks within the heritage area; *Conservation, Informal Recreation, Sport and Active Recreation* and *Community*. The majority of the heritage area's local parks (in addition to the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park) fall under Conservation Zoning. This is a reflection of the high natural and ecological values of the area. In contrast, only one park has Sport and

Active Recreation zoning, and four have Community zoning. Refer to the map in Appendix. A large number of Natural Resource and Natural Heritage overlays also apply to local parks within the heritage area.

A brief description of the characteristics and objectives of these zones as they relate to the local parks is as follows:

### Conservation zone:

This zone applies to open spaces with natural, ecological landscape, and cultural and historic heritage values. These areas include bush reserves, headlands, natural wetlands and coastlines and play an important role in protecting and increasing the populations of threatened and endangered species. They also include pristine beaches and coastlines that provide opportunities for informal recreation.

Recreation activities and development are limited in scale and intensity to protect the values of this zone. Buildings and activities relate to conservation, land management, recreation, education, park management and visitor information.

#### Objectives H7.4.2

1. *The natural, ecological, landscape, Mana Whenua and historic heritage values of the zone are enhanced and protected from adverse effects of use and development.*
2. *Use and development complements and protects the conservation values and natural qualities of the zone.*

The majority of local parks within the WRHA have conservation zoning. Representative local parks include:

- Henderson Valley Scenic Reserve
- Opanuku Esplanade and Opanuku Marginal Strip Reserve
- Te Henga Park
- North Piha Esplanade and Les Waygood Park
- Rahui Kahika Reserve

### Informal recreation zone:

Applies to open spaces that range in scale from small local parks to large regional parks. They are used for a variety of outdoor informal recreation and community activities including walking, socialising, picnics, play and enjoying the environment. These open spaces are characterised by few buildings and structures in order to maintain the open character and amenity values of the area and enable a range of informal recreation activities to occur.

#### Objectives H7.5.2

1. *The open and spacious character, amenity values and any historic, Mana Whenua, and natural values of the zone are maintained.*
2. *Informal recreation activities are the predominant use of the zone.*
3. *Buildings and exclusive-use activities are limited to maintain public use and open space for informal recreation.*
4. *Small-scale, informal land-based water-related recreational facilities are provided for while maintaining and enhancing public access to and along the coast.*

Representative local parks within the WRHA include:

- Piha Domain and North Piha Strand
- Huia Domain
- Armour Bay Reserve (part of)
- Titirangi Beach
- Wood Bay Reserve

### Sport and active recreation zone:

This zone applies to open spaces used for organised sports, active recreation and communities, including greens.

There is only one local park within the WRHA area with this zoning:

- Owens Green

### Community zone:

This zone applies to public open spaces in town centres and other urban areas that are used to accommodate community buildings and activities such as: libraries, arts and cultural centres, community houses, halls and pre-school facilities. These spaces are typically dominated by buildings and structures and associated parking areas.

Four local parks within the WRHA have community zoning:

- Titirangi War Memorial Reserve
- Laingholm Hall Reserve
- Woodlands Park
- Oratia Hall Reserve

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## 1.7 Landscape and historical context

### 1.7.1 Landscape

The Waitākere Ranges are a chain of hills running approximately 25km in north to south direction. Their forested ranges form a dramatic visual backdrop to metropolitan Auckland and are essential to the identity of both Waitākere City and metropolitan Auckland.

The ranges consist of heavily forested ridge lines, steep slopes, valleys and ravines. The foothills to the north and east give way to moderate and gently rolling landforms of the lowland alluvial flats and pastoral land associated with the areas of Oratia, Waitatarua and Henderson Valley. Development is more extensive within these established rural areas.

### 1.7.2 Geology and soils

The Waitākere Ranges were formed over millions of years by a combination of volcanic deposition and tectonic uplifting. Today's land forms are a result of subsequent erosion from the dominant westerly winds, strong ocean currents and the many streams that flow down through the valleys into the Tasman Sea and Manukau Harbour.

The exposed black sand beaches along the western coastline are comprised of eroded volcanic ash layers from Mt Taranaki and the volcanoes of the central North Island. It is thought that most of this material has been swept up the coast via longshore drift from the Waikato River. On the Manukau Harbour side of the ranges there was not such a steady supply of sand to create beaches and large dunes. As a result the stream and creek mouths flowing out from the ranges have become tidal flats. Mangroves thrive on many of these mudstone and sandstone filled estuarine areas.

### 1.7.3 Flora

The Waitākere Ranges are significant within the Auckland Region as they, along with the Hunua Ranges, are the two largest blocks of native forest remaining in the Auckland region and contain high levels of vegetation and wildlife diversity.

The heritage area falls within the Waitākere Ecological District. This is of particular significance due to its rich diversity of forest types and vegetation communities, intact sequences of vegetation from the coast up to the inland hills, the wild nature of its coastal ecosystems and wetland and dune lake systems. The Waitākere Ecological District is botanically rich and contains more than a quarter of New Zealand's flowering species and two thirds of all native ferns. Specifically the area is home to:

*'542 species of native plant (111 species of these being native ferns); many species of nationally threatened and regionally threatened plant; 50 species of native bird, 3 species of kauri snail (large land snail), 11 species of native freshwater fish; 5 species of native reptiles (including the green gecko); 1 native frog (Hochstetters Frog) and 1 native mammal (long-tailed bat)'*

Waitākere City Biodiversity Report, 2007

In pre-European times the ranges were covered in dense podocarp and broadleaf forest, with kauri forest located on the eastern slopes and ridges. Vegetation has been modified over time. Modification by early Māori was restricted to the coastal areas along the West Coast and the Manukau Harbour. The European settlers carried out substantial modification by way of logging native timber such as kauri, totata, rimu, matai and tawa, and land clearance for farming and horticulture. Today there are few areas of indigenous forest left, with the majority of the ranges being comprised of regenerating native vegetation. Forest types present today include podocarp species (including tanekaha, rimu and kauri) and broadleaf species (puriri and kohekohe), along with manuka and kanuka forest.

Local parks within the heritage area fall within the 'Warm Lowlands Ecosystem' as identified in the Waitākere City Biodiversity Report (2007). Vegetation classes within these parks include mixed broadleaf and podocarp bush, regenerating bush and open spaces with grass and hard landscaping.

Many parts of the eastern foothills have undergone urbanisation or remain in pastoral or horticultural use. Despite this modification these areas retain some remnant patches of native bush and are still regionally important despite exhibiting lower biodiversity values.

The Waitākere Ranges contain a high number of pest plants and weed species. This is mainly due to the large number of private properties within their borders, and the roads and walking tracks which dissect the area, all of which act as weed sources and vectors. Some of the most high-threat species include climbing asparagus, moth plant, pampas, wild ginger, tradescantia, Japanese honeysuckle, agapanthas, cape ivy, gazania, wild ginger and brush wattle.

The Waitākere Ranges also represents the most heavily infected kauri dieback area currently recorded within New Zealand and is a widespread biosecurity issue within the ranges. Refer to section 3.9.1 for additional information.

### 1.7.4 Fauna

The ranges provide valuable habitat for a range of insect, bird and reptile species. The Waitākere Ranges are home to a diverse range of birds. Common bird species found within the ranges and present within local parks include tui, kingfisher, kererū, fantail, tomtit, grey warbler, morepork, pied tit and silvereye. The West Coast is home to a high diversity of coastal and swamp birds and the Manukau Harbour provides habitat for a range of estuary birds and migratory waders.

Terrestrial vegetation also provides habitat for invertebrates and lizards, and streams and waterways are home to a number of micro-invertebrates and fish species including banded kōkopu, long and shortfin eel and bullies, kōaro and ingana.

### 1.7.5 Water

The Waitākere Ranges area has an extensive and rugged western coastline, as well as the calmer shorelines and estuaries of the Manukau Harbour. It contains many streams that eventually flow into the Manukau and Waitematā Harbours, several wetlands and Lakes Wainamu and Kawaupaka. In addition, more than 6,800 hectares of the ranges are in water supply catchments with five water supply dams and reservoirs providing water to a significant portion of the region.

The naturally functioning Oratia and Opanuku Streams are noteworthy as they have not been dammed for water supply. Their headwaters have high water quality, while lower downstream within pastoral areas streams have lower biodiversity due to the lack of riparian vegetation, increased water temperature and turbidity. This has been exacerbated by human activities such as logging in the 19th century, and more recent horticultural and pastoral activities and earthworks related to land development.

### 1.7.6 Māori history

The area has a long and rich human history. It is a distinctive cultural domain for Māori. While it is recognised that the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is of interest to other iwi, Te Kawerau a Maki are considered the iwi of the West Coast.

Te Kawerau a Maki were one of the earliest tribes to settle within the wider Auckland area. Their origins arise from the first inhabitants of the land - the Turehu, to the arrival of the Tainui, Aotea, Moekakara, Tokomaru, Kahuitara, and Kurahaupo canoes in the 14th century, and the Ngati Awa, Ngaoho, and Ngaiwi people who occupied the wider area prior to 1600. The eponymous ancestor Maki is an important figure in the history of Tamaki Makaurau. He was a famed warrior who conquered much of the region during the early 1600s after migrating with some 300 of his hapu to Tamaki Makaurau through the lands of his Tainui relatives from the northern Taranaki-Kawhia area. It is through this whakapapa that when Maki settled Tamaki Makaurau he was in the land of his Ngaiwi and Ngaoho relatives and ancestral home.

The name Te Kawerau a Maki arises from an incident which occurred while Maki was visiting the southern Kaipara, and is also one of the names given to Maki and his wife Rotu's only Kaipara-born son and the founding ancestor of the iwi, Tawhiakiterangi.

In time Maki's descendants occupied lands from Hikurangi (West Auckland), to Te Whenua roa o Kahu (the North Shore), Whangaparaoa, Mahurangi, Matakana, Pakiri, southern Kaipara, and the gulf islands of Aotea (Great Barrier Island), Hauturu o Toi (Little Barrier Island) and Tiritiri Matangi, forming the Te Kawerau confederation. By the early 1700s the traditional rohe was thus from Okaka (South Head, Kaipara) to Paratutai (North Head, Manukau) in the west; and from Te Arai o Tahuhu (Te Arai Point) in the northeast to Takapuna in the southeast as well as the

gulf islands. The heartland of Te Kawerau a Maki was and remains Hikurangi. Te Kawerau history and values originate from their whakapapa and tikanga.

The information presented here is not to be compromised or interpreted by those without Te Kawerau whakapapa and tikanga. It is also important to note that the story of Te Kawerau a Maki comprises over 800 years and cannot be summarised here in detail, just as their traditional knowledge is regarded as taonga and many aspects of this will not be commented on.

### 1.7.7 European history

European emigrants began settling in the area in the early 1800s with the coastal areas being cleared for farming. The forest was also extensively logged with sawmills located through the district. Logs were initially transported across the Manukau Harbour to Onehunga from Huia and via Whatipu Wharf which was serviced by a tram line that ran along the coastline from Piha to Karekare.

During the 1850s and 1860s the ranges were subdivided by the government and granted and sold to new settlers who cleared the bush to establish small farms. European settlement progressed slowly through the area. Road access to coastal settlements beyond Titirangi and Swanson was limited meaning the areas of Parau, Huia and Laingholm remained sparsely populated until road improvements occurred in the 1890s.

In addition to logging and timber milling, other economic activities included flax mills, small scale cattle farming and the extraction of kauri gum. The eastern foothills were also cleared with orchards and vineyards established.



The eventual decline in logging and marginal nature of the land for farming led to many properties in the centre of the ranges being abandoned or purchased by Auckland City Council for water supply in the early 1900s.

Land that was cleared for logging and farming was returned to scrub and native bush due to the lack of manpower to maintain the land, this was aided by the area's high levels of rainfall which is double that of Auckland's CBD. The majority of this land now forms the bush living communities of Titirangi, Laingholm, Huia and Waiatarua as well as the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. The eastern foothills are also home to semi-rural communities such as Oratia and Waitākere Township.

## 1.8 Brief pictorial history



Figure 3. Mander and Bradley's Mill, 1895-1899



Figure 4. Digging for gum, c1900



Figure 5. Kawerau dwelling site, Waiti Village, Te Henga 1910



Figure 6. Logging hauler, Karekare, c1913



Figure 7. Te Henga - a popular holiday resort, 1909



Figure 8. Holiday camp life at Piha, 1918



Figure 9. Large kauri tree in Oratia, 1914



Figure 10. Panorama of Orchards at Oratia, 1930



Figure 11. Shifting kauri log with timber jack, 1935



Figure 12. Log jam in Karamatura Stream, 1931



Figure 13. Surfer girls at Piha, 1939



Figure 14. Henderson Valley farmland, 1956



Figure 15. Model of Henderson's Mill and water-wheel at West Auckland Historical Society



Figure 10. Liz Oldfield, 2017.

## 2.0 Local park environments



Figure 17. Bethells Beach, Heidi Ping Xu, 2013.

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## 2.1 Summary of local park environments

Local parks within the heritage area serve important ecological, community and recreational functions for the communities that surround them. The parks are typically small in size and frequently surrounded by residential development. The landscape characteristics of these parks and reserves varies between the semi-rural communities of the eastern foothills, the more intensively developed bush living neighbourhoods of Waiatarua and the Manukau coastline, and the communities located along the exposed western coastline.

The reserves within 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 parks within the bush living communities such as Titirangi, Laingholm and Huia tend to be dominated by native bush cover, this contributes to the visual appearance of continuous bush cover within these communities.

The following seven park environments have been identified within the heritage area based on shared landscape values, including; landscape context, location, zoning, park function, flora, fauna and landform:

The aim of identifying these park environments is to ensure that any development that occurs within each environment type is appropriate based on the specific landscape qualities and character of the environment.

This section provides additional detail on the seven park environments. It includes existing site photographs and a description of where these park environments are located, their defining landscape characteristics and the built structures or park infrastructure typically found in each environment.

There is an amount of cross-over between certain park environments within local parks. It is not uncommon for parks, particularly the larger ones, to comprise of several environment types. Common pairings include native forest and riparian park environments, and open/grassed and native forest or riparian environments.

There are also similarities between certain park environments due to shared landscape characteristics. Most commonly native forest, riparian and thoroughfare/access park environments share a number of landscape characteristics and high natural values.

The following section describes the characteristics of each of these environments.



### 2.2 Native forest park environment



### 2.3 Coastal (harbour) park environment



### 2.4 Coastal (sea) park environment



### 2.5 Open grassed park environment



### 2.6 Riparian park environment



### 2.7 Thoroughfare/accessway park environment



### 2.8 Village centre park environment

## 2.2 Native forest park environment

### Location

Native forest park environments are evenly distributed throughout the heritage area. They typically form a continuation of (and are often indistinguishable from) the heavily vegetated Regional Parkland.

Local parks within this environment type are located within the following areas:

- around the semi-rural communities of the eastern foothills and lower valleys of the Waitākere Ranges including Oratia and Henderson Valley,
- around the bush living areas of Waiatarua, Huia, Parau, Titirangi and Laingholm,
- along the coastal margins of the Manukau Harbour, and
- along the exposed western coastline around the settlements of Piha and Karekare.

Representative native forest parks include:

- Kitewaho Reserve, Swanson
- Siebel Scenic Reserve, Henderson Valley
- Henderson Valley Scenic Reserve
- Kauri Reserve, Oratia
- Ruru Reserve, Oratia
- Douglas Scenic Reserve, Waiatarua
- Huia Scenic Reserve
- Laingholm Scenic Reserve
- Tainui Reserve, Titirangi
- Rahui Kahika Reserve, Titirangi
- Bishop Park, Titirangi
- Claude Abel Reserve, Piha

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

These reserves have Conservation Zoning.

### Landscape character

The majority of these local parks are bush or scenic reserves. Clad in native regenerating and indigenous bush they contribute to the wider green network of the Waitākere Ranges. They provide relatively untouched landscapes where the built environment is subservient to the natural environment and where a sense of wilderness, quiet and solitude prevails. **They have a natural landscape character with vegetation and landform as their dominant features.**

A large number of these native forest parks are currently either undeveloped or inaccessible. These undeveloped reserves provide important ecological corridors and habitats for native flora, fauna, invertebrates and aquatic species. They are characterised by high levels of vegetation and wildlife diversity.

### Vegetation

Climate and topography are key influences on the vegetation of this park environment. Within areas such as Huia, Laingholm and Titirangi, and on the eastern foothills, vegetation is predominantly regenerating lowland coastal forest, featuring a diverse range of forest communities including kauri along ridges, rainforest on slopes and kahikatea and nikau groves in valley bottoms.

Vegetation along the West Coast is dominated by salt-resistant pohutukawa forest and hardy coastal species due to the exposed coastal location and salt spray from the Tasman Sea. These forces diminish in the more sheltered environments of the Manukau Harbour, which are home to kowhai, karaka and kohekohe, with pohutukawa restricted to the more exposed sites.

### Built structures

These parks are characterised by low levels of modification and infrastructure. Built structures are typically limited to signage, and access is provided through these spaces via unformed paths.

Many of the smaller, and all of the undeveloped reserves contain no built structures aside from signage at reserve entrances.

### Colours and textures of the native forest park environment





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## 2.3 Coastal (harbour) park environment

### Location

Coastal harbour parks are located along the northern banks of the Manukau Harbour, between Green Bay and Little Huia. These reserves are typically associated with the residential neighborhoods of Titirangi, Laingholm, Parau and Huia. These reserves have a strong connection to the coastal processes of the harbour environment and provide both a linkage and buffer between the harbour and adjacent residential areas.

The Manukau Harbour is a recreational haven. Local parks along this stretch of coastline cater to local residents for informal recreation. Visitor numbers to these parks increase greatly over the summer months for activities such as boating, picnicking and swimming.

Some of these reserves are located along the tops of coastal cliffs (i.e. Taumatere Esplanade and Opou Reserve), while others are located alongside and within the small sheltered bays and beaches on the coastal foreshore.

Representative coastal (harbour) parks include:

- Bug Muddy Creek Esplanade, Parau
- Taumatere Esplanade, Laingholm
- Takaranga Reserve, Parau
- Gill Esplanade, Titirangi
- Warner Park, Laingholm
- Foster Reserve, Huia
- Armour Bay Reserve, Parau
- Huia Domain, Huia
- Titirangi Beach, Titirangi

A number of native forest and thoroughfare/accessway parks provide connections to this park environment type, these are addressed in sections 2.2 and 2.7 respectively.

### Auckland Unitary Plan Zoning

The majority of the coastal harbour reserves have Conservation Zoning, a small number have Informal Recreation Zoning.

### Landscape character

The landscape of the Manukau Harbour coastline is characterised by patterns of constantly changing intertidal flats and sandbars, cliffs and headlands, estuaries, fringes of mangrove swamp and coastal forest. The extensive tidal inlets of Big Muddy Creek and Little Muddy Creek contribute to the character of the reserves and form a transition from open waters, through estuarine and salt marsh environment to terrestrial land.

### Vegetation

The character of these reserves is fairly consistent, most being densely vegetated, linear, narrow strips located along the coastal edge. A large number of these are esplanade reserves. Some of the larger coastal reserves, including Armour Bay Reserve, Foster Bay Reserve, Titirangi Beach and Huia Domain, contain open grassed areas.

A ribbon of coastal forest survives along the majority of the foreshore between Green Bay and Huia. This varies from a narrow strip along the coastal cliffs and shoreline adjacent to residential properties, to larger forested areas and forms an ecological corridor for fauna moving within the Waitākere Ranges. The predominant vegetation type is pohutukawa coastal forest. Canopy species of pohutukawa, with kowhai, puriri, nikau, karo and houpara can be found here.

Other reserves along the Manukau lie adjacent to areas of saltmarsh and mangrove vegetation. Estuarine wetlands have developed at mouths of most of the rivers and waterways draining into the Manukau Harbour.

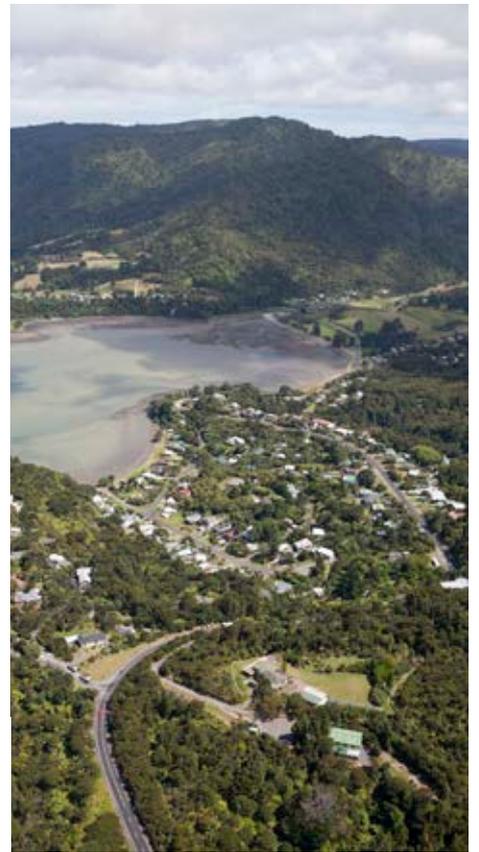
### Built structures

Built structures within these parks vary depending on the park's primary function. The majority of these reserves, including most of the esplanade reserves are aimed at passive and informal use including walking and picnicking and contain few built structures.

Some of the larger reserves with areas of grass provide formal recreational facilities such as toilet blocks, playgrounds, tennis courts, sporting facilities and picnic facilities. Reserves providing access to the harbour often contain boat ramps, coastal retaining, carparking and clubrooms associated with these water activities.

### Colours and textures of the coastal (harbour) park environment





## 2.4 Coastal (sea) park environment

### Location

The coastal sea parks within the heritage area are located along the foreshore of the west coast, facing the Tasman Sea. They include significant stretches of beach and foredune systems, alluvial flats associated with streams and waterways, and steep rocky escarpments. They are clustered around the coastal settlements of Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and Piha.

Despite its coastal location, Karekare's local parks are set back from the coastal edge and do not include any sections of beach or foredune so are classed as either open/grassed park or native forest park environments.

Parks classed as coastal sea environments are only located along the coastal foreshore, therefore not all of the local parks within the Piha and Te Henga have this classification. Thoroughfare/accessway reserves provide access to these coastal parks, open spaces providing recreational facilities i.e. playgrounds, basketball and informal green spaces (i.e. Piha Domain) are typically classified as open/grassed park environments, and those densely vegetated scenic reserves set back from the coastal edge are classed as native forest environments.

There are no local parks at Anawhata Beach or Whatipu Beach as this is regional parkland.

The west coast beaches are popular recreational destinations and are the most visited locations within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, particularly over the summer months. These parks offer numerous opportunities for wilderness experiences and recreation, including surfing, swimming, fishing, picnicking, walking and dog walking.

Notable coastal sea parks include:

- Les Waygood Park, Piha
- North Piha Esplanade, Piha
- North Piha Strand, Piha
- Te Henga Park, Bethells Beach

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

These reserves have a Conservation or Informal Recreation Zoning.

### Landscape Character

These parks have a distinct, rugged and exposed coastal character that has been shaped by their interaction with the Tasman Sea. These landscapes typically feature wind swept black sand surf beaches, foreshore dunes, alluvial flats and wetlands and rugged landforms, including steep rocky escarpments and headlands and deep incised river valleys. The dynamic coastal processes at play such as wind blown sand movement, dune formation and erosion, stream movement and erosion and swamp and lake formation have resulted in an environment that is constantly changing.

These environments are important wildlife habitats and form a connection from the sea into the forested Ranges. They are home to numerous native and introduced forest bird species and seabird species, as well as aquatic species and micro-invertebrates.

### Vegetation

The vegetation of the coastal sea parks contains distinctive and outstanding plant species and is strongly influenced by the effects of ocean and climate. A number of vegetation associations occur on these reserves, including dune vegetation dominated by spinafex and pingao, and coastal wetland vegetation located around the edges of lagoons and waterways; exposed coastal vegetation within the coastal salt spray zone dominated by coastal scrub and pohutukawa forest; and lowland and coastal forest found on exposed rocky bluffs and cliffs.

### Built structures

There are few built structures on these reserves. Built structures typically comprise of toilets and changing facilities, showers and areas of carparking, usually clustered at reserve entrances and beach access points. Site furniture includes rubbish bins, bollards and signage. Path form and surfacing varies depending on the path's location, and includes informal grass and sand paths that provide beach access.

Carparks in these environments cater to large influxes of visitors over the busy summer months. Carparks vary from formal sealed areas with painted line markings (Piha South Reserve), to informal unsealed parking areas located either adjacent to existing roads (North Piha Strand), or within a dedicated parking area (Te Henga Park).

### Colours and textures of the coastal (sea) park environment





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## 2.5 Open / grassed park environment

### Location

Open/grassed park environments are typically located in and around the residential communities they serve. Some larger parks also serve as a focal areas for visitor activities in addition to local community use. There are less local parks within the heritage area with open/grassed park classification compared to the other park environment types.

Representative open/grassed parks within the heritage area include:

- Piha Domain, Piha
- Owen's Green, Laingholm
- Tangiwai Reserve, Titirangi
- Inland sections of Te Henga Park, Te Henga (Bethells Beach)
- Huia Domain
- Titirangi Beach (part of), Titirangi
- Armour Bay Reserve (part of), Parau

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

These reserves have a combination of Conservation, Informal Recreation and Sport and Active Recreation Zoning.

### Landscape character

These local parks have more of a traditional parkland character and are characterised by larger open green spaces used for informal recreation, play and picnicking.

### Vegetation

These reserves are typically open grassed environments with specimen trees, sometimes set against a backdrop of native bush.

### Built structures

Built structures such as toilets, changing facilities and other community buildings are located at some of the larger open/grassed parks.

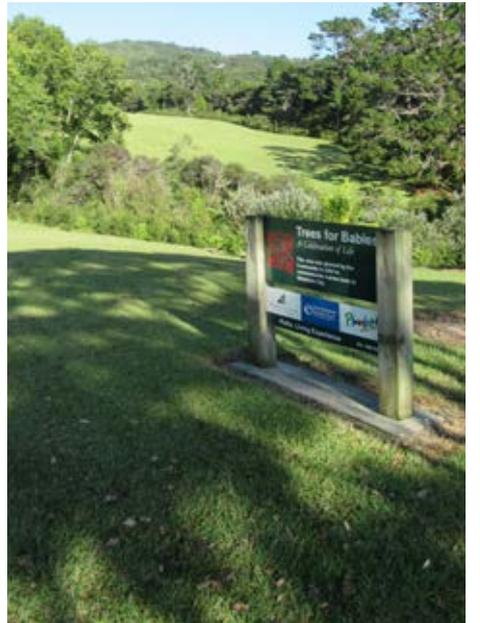
Recreational facilities include tennis courts, basketball courts and playgrounds, skate parks, site furniture (drinking fountains, bollards, rubbish bins, picnic tables, seats and benches) and areas of carparking. Some larger reserves also contain bowling clubs, and clubrooms.

Access through these reserves is typically provided via sealed concrete paths.

There is only one sports park within the heritage area, this being Owens Green. This is home to the Huia Road Horse Club, sports fields and large areas of car parking.

### Colours and textures of the open/grassed park environment





## 2.6 Riparian park environment

### Location

Riparian parks are located throughout the heritage area and are associated with the following waterways:

- Within the eastern foothills local parks flank the Oratia, Opanuku and Swanson Streams and their tributaries that originate in the ranges and drain into the Waitematā Harbour
- A series of natural overland flow paths, streams and watercourses pass through local parks before discharging into the Manukau Harbour, and the estuarine tributaries in low lying bays such as Big Muddy Creek and Little Muddy Creek
- The Waitākere River, Taimana Stream, Piha Stream and Karekare Stream pass through local parks along the West Coast before discharging into the Tasman Sea.

Stormwater reserves, estuaries and dunes lakes are also included as riparian park environments where they occur in local parks.

Representative riparian parks include:

- Mountain Road Esplanade Reserve (Opanuku Stream)
- Okanuku Esplanade (Opanuku Stream)
- Pareira Reserve (Stoney Stream)
- Henderson Valley Scenic Reserve (the Opanuku Stream)
- Kauri Stream (Potter Stream)
- Taumata Scenic Reserve (Oratia Stream)
- Douglas Scenic Reserve (Oratia Stream)
- Cochran Stream Esplanade (Cochran Stream)
- Part of Te Henga Park (Waitākere River and Taimana Stream)
- Tangiwai Reserve (Warituna Stream, Yorkes Gully and Armstrong Gully)
- Landing Road Reserve and Gill Esplanade (Warituna Stream)
- Davies Bay Reserve (Davies Bay Stream)
- Claude Abel Reserve (artificially created pond)

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

These reserves have Conservation Zoning.

### Landscape character

Riparian parks are defining landscape features that contribute to the character of the heritage area and provide structure to the natural environment. Primary waterways are typically contained by ridges and spurs that feed into the hill country from the upper ranges. Streams are generally clear running with stony bottoms in the upper reaches, becoming muddy in the lower reaches.

Streams have intrinsic value and provide important ecological benefits, their vegetated margins prevent contaminants from entering streams, help alleviate flooding and contribute to the amenity of urban areas.

A large number of these riparian parks are esplanade reserves, these play an important role in protecting conservation values, such as water quality and the natural functioning of the rivers and streams. Many are either inaccessible and/or undeveloped. They provide important ecological linkages and habitats for native flora and fauna. The streams are home to eels, crayfish and common bullies and banded kōkōpu as well as invertebrates such as freshwater snails.

### Vegetation

Riparian parks are typically covered in native regenerating forest. Within the eastern foothills, fingers of native bush permeate down from the ranges through stream corridors, generally following local stream courses and steeper escarpments. Riparian parks within Huia, Titirangi and Laingholm are also clad in native vegetation which forms an extension of the native vegetation that dominates the adjacent residential bush living environments.

### Built structures

Riparian park environments are characterised by a lack of built structures. Structures are often restricted to signage at reserve entrances. Where access is provided through these reserves it typically consists of unformed tracks and paths.

Water is a resource that is sensitive to the impacts of land development so any development within riparian areas needs to be carefully undertaken as potential impacts on the streams includes loss of ecological linkages and biodiversity, an increase in pollution and plant pests, and deterioration to the amenity of the areas around streams.

### Colours and textures of the riparian park environment





## 2.7 Thoroughfare / accessway park environment

### Location

Thoroughfare/accessway reserves are numerous throughout the heritage area. Their primary function is to provide pedestrian off-road access and connections throughout the local environment. These are typically located within the following residential areas:

- around Henderson Valley and Waiatarua on the eastern foothills,
- in the bush living environments of Laingholm, Titirangi and Huia, and
- Piha

Representative thoroughfare/accessway parks include:

- Landing Road Walkway
- Patuora Way, (connecting Patuora Road and Tinopai Road, Titirangi)
- Aripito Plantation Reserve (connecting Aripito Road and South Titirangi Road), Titirangi
- Mahoe Walk (connecting between South Titirangi Road and Mahoe Road), Titirangi
- Warner Walk, Laingholm,
- Western Park, Laingholm
- Handley Plantation Reserve, Oratia
- Atarua Way, Waiatarua
- Foster Hill Lane and Foster Ave Walkway, Huia
- Garden Road Walkway, Piha

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

The majority of these reserves have Conservation Zoning. A small number located within more modified environments are zoned Informal Recreation.

### Landscape character

These reserves are typically long and linear in shape. They are important pedestrian routes for the local community, providing direct access to local facilities and open spaces, while minimising the use of the road network. They enable access to local parks and reserves, and coastal and riparian areas from local roads and residential areas. They can connect up cul-de-sac roads or provide shortcuts between the existing road network. These parks frequently flank residential property boundaries.

These local connections are particularly important in areas such as Piha and at some of the parks and reserves along the Manukau Harbour that attract high visitor numbers during the summer months when roads are busy and carparking is at a premium.

A number of these connections are currently either undeveloped or inaccessible.

These accessways and thoroughfares occur across the range of landscape types within the heritage area, including forests, urban and residential area, harbour, coastal and riparian environments.

### Vegetation

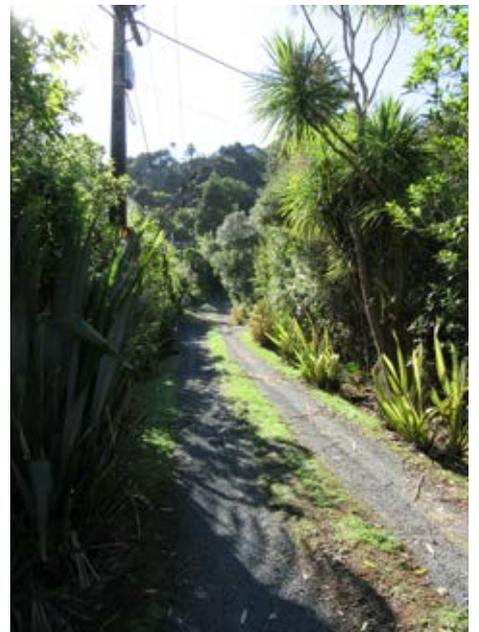
Vegetation within these local parks varies from the uninterrupted bush cover characteristic of the bush living environments of Titirangi and Laingholm, to more open grassed environments more common in coastal environments such as Piha.

### Built structures

Built structures within this environment are typically restricted to signage, and the paths and tracks that providing public access through these spaces. Paths cover the spectrum of surfacing types and materials, from grass paths, unformed bush tracks, boardwalks, and formed steps through to sealed concrete paths. Path materiality is determined by the landscape setting.

### Colours and textures of the thoroughfare/accessway park environment





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## 2.8 Village centre park environment

### Location

Village centre park environment parks are located in built up suburban or urban environments. This is the most urban park type of the seven, and there are only a small number of reserves with this classification within the heritage area, including:

- **Titirangi War Memorial Reserve**  
Located in the heart of Titirangi Village, this reserve contains the Titirangi Library and the Titirangi War Memorial Hall, as well as a number of buildings that are leased by community organisations, including: the Titirangi Returned Services Association, the Titirangi RSA Bowling Club, Auckland Playcentre, Plunket and the Titirangi Community House. It also contains extensive areas of car parking.
- **Laingholm Hall Reserve**  
Located on the corner of Victory Road and Lookout Drive, this reserve contains the Laingholm Playcentre, the Laingholm Village Hall and the Ex Doctors Rooms at the rear of the Hall. It also has a public tennis court and an area of car parking in front of the Plunket building.
- **Woodlands Park**  
This small reserve contains the Woodlands Park Community Kindergarten.
- **Oratia Hall Reserve**  
This small reserve contains the Oratia Settlers Hall.

### Auckland Unitary Plan zoning

These reserves have Community Zoning.

### Landscape character

The village centre parks contain a higher ratio of built structures and hard surfacing than the other environment types, and have a more urban character. They contribute to the sense of place for the communities that surround them.

These local parks function as gathering spaces for the local community and add to community identity and belonging, due to the facilities they provide and their locations. Titirangi War Memorial Reserve is located in the heart of the village while Laingholm Hall Reserve is located directly opposite the Laingholm Primary School.

### Vegetation

Vegetation within this park environment contains more amenity style planting, and has a higher proportion of exotic species.

While these reserves have an inherently urban character, Titirangi War Memorial Reserve contains a number of key characteristics of the heritage area including its mature bush surrounds which give the built environment an amount of subservience to its natural surrounds, along with views out to the Manukau Harbour.

### Built structures

Carparking and paths within these parks are typically more formal, with sealed surfaces and line markings to withstand the wear and tear of frequent use.

These reserves also typically contain higher amounts of signage and site furniture. Access through these parks is typically provided by sealed concrete paths.

### Colours and textures of the village centre park environment



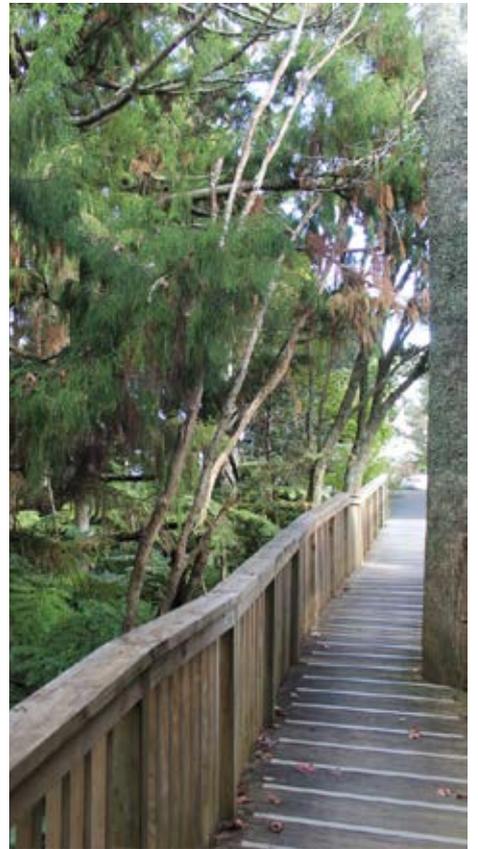




Figure 18. Arataki Visitors Centre, Jay Farnworth, 2014

## 3.0 Design principles and guidance

## 3.1 Overall design principles

All development will respect, protect, restore and enhance the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and its features as identified in the Act. The following overarching design principles inform the more specific design guidance located in section 3.2 of this document.

### 3.1.1 Natural heritage

Many local parks have high scenic and landscape qualities that are regionally significant, and contain representative examples of Auckland’s landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity. Local parks allow people to learn about and appreciate the natural heritage of the region, and provide opportunities to enhance and restore biodiversity and natural values.

#### A. Natural heritage design principles

**All development will respect, conserve and where appropriate, enhance and restore the unique natural heritage of the Waitākere Ranges for future generations**

1. All development will protect and enhance indigenous flora and fauna, with particular regard to minimising the spread of Kauri dieback disease
2. All development will protect and enhance waterways and their catchments
3. All development will ensure key views and vistas are protected
4. All development will protect the quietness and darkness of the Waitākere Ranges and coastal areas
5. All development will be clustered and located against natural features, i.e. hillsides and mature vegetation, to minimise its visual impact
6. All development will, where possible, use natural materials and reflect the locality of the development
7. All development will be of a scale and colour scheme appropriate to the area, to minimise the visual impact
8. All development will, where possible, avoid multiple structures and formalisation through straight lines, hard surfaces and urban elements



Figure 19. Tree Fern (*Cyathea dealbata*)

### 3.1.2 Cultural heritage

The WRHA is an area with strong tangata whenua and historic associations which show the continuum of land use and settlement over many hundreds of years. Past land use and development are closely tied to landscape form, and contribute to Waitākere’s sense of place. The heritage area’s parks contain a variety of taonga of significance to tangata whenua. The mauri of these taonga is sacred and provides a link to the source of tribal origins and history.

The parks here also contain a range of features such as buildings and built structures that serve as reminders of the history of settlement and occupation in the region. These range from pre-European habitation sites, war memorials, historic buildings, homesteads and gardens, historic farming practices and associated infrastructure, and the remains of Auckland’s timber and farming industries. Visitor experience can be greatly enhanced by learning about the human stories attached to these locations.

## B. Cultural heritage design principles

**All development will respect, conserve, and where appropriate, enhance and restore the unique cultural heritage of the Waitākere Ranges for future generations**

1. Capture the historical, traditional and cultural relationships of the people, communities and tangata whenua of the area  
.....
2. Recognise and provide for the relationship of tangata whenua with their ancestral taonga  
.....
3. Design to take into account Te Aranga Design Principles (refer page 8)  
.....
4. Recognise the individual identity and character of the villages within the heritage area  
.....
5. All development will protect and enhance heritage features and tell the region’s stories  
.....
6. Check the Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) for any archaeological information  
.....
7. Provide accessible recreational opportunities



Figure 20. Celebrating the history of Piha’s WWII radar station (part of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park)

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## 3.2 Design guidance

### 3.2.1 Design guidance summary

The following design guidelines address the full suite of elements that could be located within local parks within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. This guidance acts as a checklist rather than a specification.

These items are grouped under the following nine headings:

- 3.3 Park Furniture
- 3.4 Tracks, paths, boardwalks, bridges and lookouts
- 3.5 Barriers, bollards, retaining walls and gates
- 3.6 Buildings, shelters and toilets
- 3.7 Carparking
- 3.8 Playgrounds, hardcourts and skateparks
- 3.9 Planting
- 3.10 Community art
- 3.11 Signage

Specific design guidance is provided for each of these items under the following headings:

- ensure good siting
- ensure access and usability
- ensure safety and visibility
- ensure sense of place and right materials
- ensure ease of maintenance

Also included in this section are photographs of existing examples from local parks within the heritage area, guidance diagrams where applicable, along with any relevant references or additional information.

### 3.2.1 Applicability tables

As the seven park environments identified in Section 2 cover a diverse range of landscape types, from built-up urban areas to remote wilderness environments, not all of the park elements are appropriate across all environments. As such, a table has been included for each park element to indicate whether the design guidance is applicable to the specific park environment.

This table indicates whether the design guidance for the particular park element is applicable, sometimes applicable, or not applicable to the various park environment. Elements identified as sometimes applicable will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

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#### Park Environment Key:

NF	Native Forest
CH	Coastal (Harbour)
CS	Coastal (Sea)
OG	Open/Grassed
RI	Riparian
TA	Thoroughfare/Accessway
VC	Village Centre

### 3.2.2 Applicability table summary

The following table provides a summary of the applicability of each of the park elements to the park environments. These items are not essential but may be considered within these environments if applicable:

		PARK ENVIRONMENTS						
	PARK ELEMENTS	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
3.3 PARK FURNITURE	Barbecues	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	Bike Racks	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Drinking Fountains and Showers	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Rubbish and Recycling Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Seating and Picnic Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Lighting	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
3.4	Tracks, Paths, Boardwalks, Bridges and Lookouts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.5	Barriers, Bollards, Retaining Walls and Gates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.6	Buildings, Shelters and Toilets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
3.7	Carparking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.8	Playgrounds, Hardcourts and Skateparks	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
3.9	Planting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.10	Community Art	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.11	Signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### Applicability Key:

- ✓ Applicable
- ✓ Sometimes applicable
- ✗ Not applicable

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## 3.3 Park furniture

Barbecues, bike racks, drinking fountains, showers, rubbish bins, seats and picnic tables have been grouped together under the park furniture heading. These furniture items share common design guidance which is listed below under the general considerations section. Additional design guidance that is specific to individual items is listed in sections 3.3.1 to 3.3.5.

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### General considerations

#### Ensure good siting:

- locate park furniture (bike racks, drinking fountains and bins) at park entrances and/or popular gathering and activity hubs such as playgrounds, hardcourts and barbecue areas to promote usage
- locate showers on beach fringes and areas where water sports occur, as well as into changing facilities at sports parks
- co-locate (cluster) furniture to avoid clutter

#### Ensure access and usability:

- locate site furniture (i.e. bins) clear of access routes, and within planted areas where appropriate
- locate furniture on a concrete pad or hard surface to mitigate wearing of the surface underneath

#### Ensure safety and visibility:

- position furniture to minimise hazard e.g. being out of the line of travel to assist the partially sighted
- ensure footings and ground connections are flush with ground level to avoid becoming a tripping hazard
- ensure water drains away from furniture and that concrete pads are free from ponded surface water
- ensure park furniture is securely mounted and installed level and upright

#### Ensure sense of place and right materials:

- ensure the scale of furniture is appropriate to the location
- select materials, colours, and forms that compliment the setting and blend with the local landscape, e.g. using exposed aggregate concrete with black oxide for furniture pads to reduce brightness/glare
- ensure materials are robust, durable, and appropriate for the location, e.g. use marine grade stainless steel components in coastal environments

- consider natural materials (i.e. timber) that weather with time
- seek uniformity and consistency of park furniture throughout the park
- use graffiti protection and standardised components to reduce maintenance costs, and consider the use of enclosed and reinforced fittings to mitigate theft, damage and vandalism.
- consider the 'whole of life' of the furniture elements, including ease of supply and life expectancy
- use natural materials with low toxicity, sourced from companies with ethical manufacturing processes where possible
- ensure any proposed timber comes from a sustainably managed forest and is approved by one of the following:
  - a. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) - an international, non- governmental, organisation supporting a scheme for forest products, which provides a credible guarantee that the product comes from a well-managed forest
  - b. New Zealand forestry industry, through its National Standard for Environmental Certification of well-managed Plantation Forests in New Zealand
  - c. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) - an independent, non-governmental organisation, which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. These certifications can be requested from timber suppliers

#### Ensure ease of maintenance:

- ensure all park furniture has components, materials and finishes that can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors
- ensure the site furniture selected has a minimum serviceable life of 10 years

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### Lighting

The darkness of the Waitākere Ranges and coastal parts of the heritage area is a heritage feature in the Act, therefore minimal levels of lighting are anticipated within local parks in keeping with these values. Lighting enables people to use and enjoy parks beyond normal daylight hours, however, unless used with care light spill and glare can have adverse affects on adjacent properties, as well as the levels of darkness of the night sky. It is not often practical or desirable to provide lighting in local parks.

Lighting has not been included as a separate item in this design guide and should be addressed within local parks on a case by case basis. Any park lighting should respond to the surrounding landscape context and must carefully balance the protection of heritage features with public safety and access.

### References / guidelines

- Auckland Council, May 2018. *State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2018*.
- *Auckland Unitary Plan* - provides policies and general standards on lighting category classifications based on open space zoning.
- Ministry of Justice, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in New Zealand (CPTED)*
- Auckland Design Manual Lighting Guidelines
- Auckland Council, *Draft Lighting Implementation Guide*

## Guidance diagram

Locate bins next to carpark areas so that they are visible to park users and allow easy access for emptying and maintenance. Ensure that bins are not located too far away from other furniture items, but not too close to prevent possible unpleasant rubbish odours affecting users

Place bike racks 500mm (minimum) back from kerbs when located on footpaths next to parks, to avoid bikes being knocked by vehicles

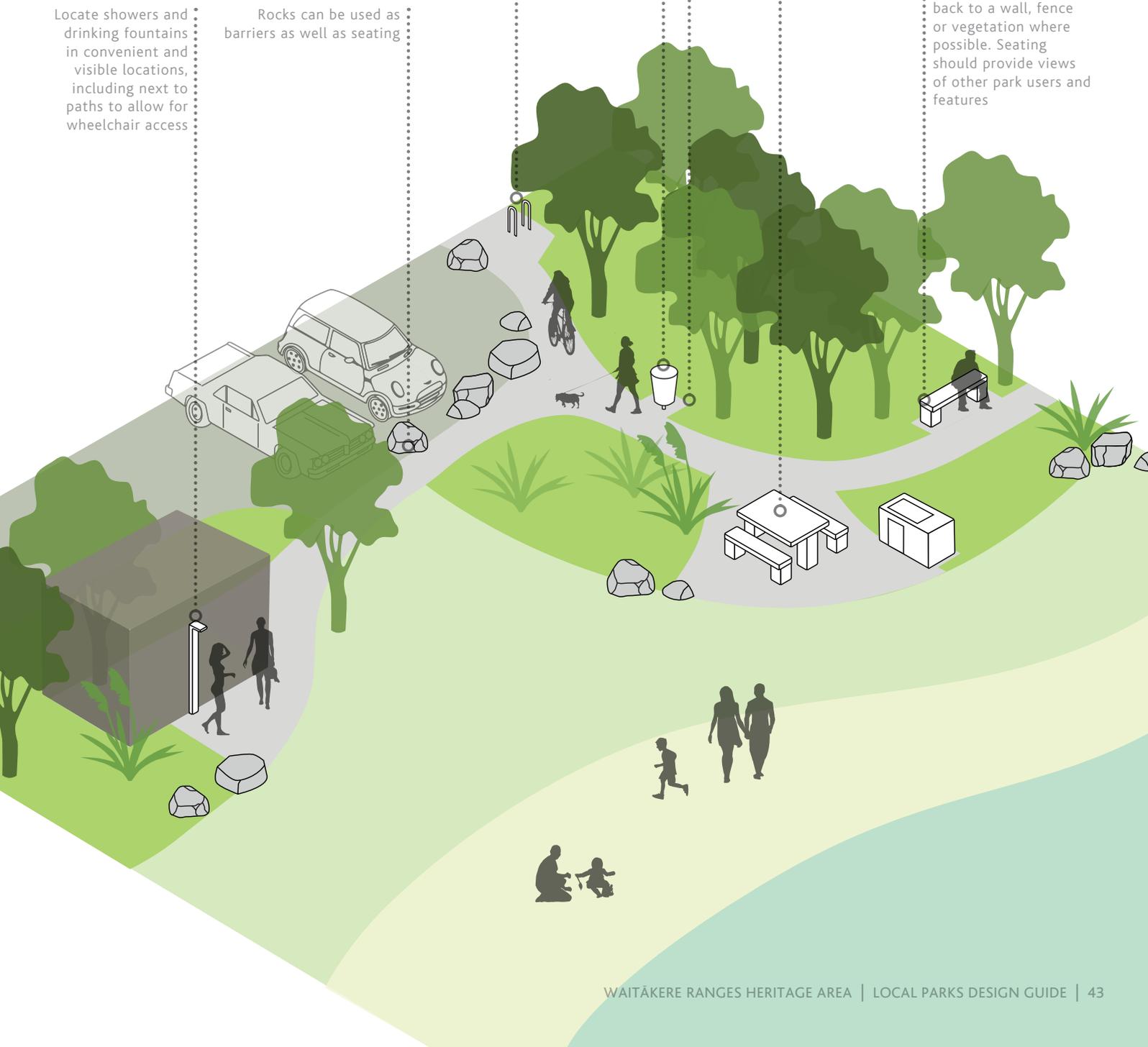
Locate showers and drinking fountains in convenient and visible locations, including next to paths to allow for wheelchair access

Rocks can be used as barriers as well as seating

Locate site furniture on a concrete pad or hard surface, or in garden beds, to mitigate the wearing of the surface underneath

Co-locate (cluster) furniture to avoid clutter

Locate seating with a back to a wall, fence or vegetation where possible. Seating should provide views of other park users and features



### 3.3.1 Barbecues

Environment	 NF	 CH	 CS	 OG	 RI	 TA	 VC
Applicability	 X	 ✓	 ✓	 ✓	 X	 X	 X

Barbecues are only suitable in local parks where there are large open green spaces and/or the park is a destination for large gatherings of people, typically within coastal harbour, coastal sea and open grassed park environments.

#### Additional considerations for barbecues:

- locate barbecues a minimum of 10 metres away from play spaces, and a minimum of 4 metres away from rubbish bins to prevent unpleasant odours affecting users
- locate barbecues where the supply of electricity takes the shortest route from the main supply under grass areas, without compromising tree roots. Electric barbecues are preferred over gas. Gas should only be used where connecting to electricity is not possible
- locate barbecues in places that allow easy access for repairs
- orientate barbecues so that users have views and can converse with other people
- place barbecues close to tables, shelters and seating areas
- avoid locating barbecues where cars can easily drive up to them
- allow for wheelchair accessibility where possible, while preventing young children from reaching the hotplates
- avoid fencing barbecue areas
- if fenced, ensure barbecues are enclosed in visually permeable barriers, to maintain clear sightlines in and out of the barbecue area and minimise anti-social behavior



Permeable fencing around the barbecue at Armour Bay

- ensure barbecues have an easily maintained fat collection tray
- ensure hotplates are defined by a raised edge to assist the blind and partially sighted and reduce the chance of injury
- ensure barbecues provide hygienic cooking surfaces, that are easily and frequently cleaned, especially in the summer months.
- ensure the minimum serviceable life of the external barbecue structure is 30 years, and the minimum serviceable life of hotplates and internal mechanisms is 10 years

### 3.3.2 Bike racks

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓

Bike racks are an urban element and are most likely to be applicable in the village centre and open grassed park environments. Due to the nature of the roads that provide access to the majority of parks within the heritage area, it is anticipated that only a few local parks will require cycle racks.

#### Additional considerations for bike racks:

- place bike racks 500mm (minimum) back from kerbs when located on footpaths next to carparks, to avoid bikes being knocked by vehicles
- consider placing bike racks in lieu of bollards to restrict vehicle movement and minimise clutter
- ensure the bike rack is usable and fit for purpose e.g. some bike racks may be aesthetically pleasing but may fail to hold the bike upright
- ensure the design provides a high level of security for bicycles
- select bike racks with a minimum serviceable life of 15-20 years



Cycle racks outside toilet blocks at Piha

### 3.3.3 Drinking fountains and showers

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓

Drinking fountains should be located at park entrances, popular gathering spots and activity hubs such as playgrounds, sports fields and barbecue areas. Showers should be located on beach and harbour fringes where water sports occur, as well as in changing facilities at sports parks.

#### Additional considerations for drinking fountains and showers:

- locate drinking fountains in convenient and visible locations, ideally next to paths to allow for wheelchair access
- locate drinking fountains or showers in close proximity to existing surface drains if there is no internal drain. Where there is no existing drainage, incorporate an in situ drain within the fountain or shower surrounds or into swales or rain gardens
- ensure concrete pad/surround is large enough to ensure adjacent ground does not get damaged
- connect to a potable water supply
- consider using drinking fountains with outlets at two different levels to enable them to be accessed by both children and adults
- ensure hygienic materials such as stainless steel are using in the construction of the drinking bowl, drink tap and mouth guard of drinking fountains
- select drinking fountains that have a minimum serviceable life of 15 years
- incorporate a service tap into the drinking fountain for open space maintenance teams, to help reduce clutter



Shower at Huia Domain

### 3.3.4 Rubbish and recycling Bins

<b>Environment</b>							
<b>Applicability</b>							

Rubbish bins are suitable in most park environments. Consideration should however be given to whether they are necessary as it would be preferable for park users to take their rubbish home for disposal.



Consider a 'no bin' policy for parks with unique coastal locations, or that contain sensitive ecosystems. Most Regional Parks in Auckland have a 'pack in, pack out' policy which works well. Many of these parks have no bin facilities but instead have signs that advise visitors to take home their rubbish. This reduces the chance of rubbish being blown from bins into the coastal or forest environment and encourages visitors to be rubbish conscious and responsible.

#### Additional considerations for rubbish and recycling bins:

- ensure ease of truck access to bins for easy emptying and maintenance
- locate bins within planting or on concrete pads to mitigate wearing of the surface underneath
- ensure that bins are not located too far away from other furniture items, but also not too close to seats (2 metres) and barbecues (4 metres) to prevent possible unpleasant rubbish odours affecting users
- use lightweight liners with drain holes for ease of servicing
- incorporate the use of anti-dent low-dome lids with a key or lock release mechanism
- ensure rubbish and recycling bins have detachable drums for ease of replacement



Rubbish bins at Te Henga Recreation Reserve, model typical of that used throughout local parks in the heritage area

### 3.3.5 Seating and picnic tables

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

Seating is important for the amenity and comfort of park users, and should be located at points that capitalise on specific views or at defined resting areas. It is anticipated that seating could be located in all park environments aside from thoroughfare/accessway environments whose primary function is as a movement corridor. Seating should however be carefully considered in native forest and riparian environments due to their sensitive ecosystems.

#### Additional considerations for seating and picnic tables:

- locate seating and tables in convenient and visible locations next to areas of activity, such as playgrounds and barbecue areas, and beside paths, to allow access for all users



Picnic table located adjacent to playground at Huia Domain

- locate seating at rest points along routes and at viewpoints
- locate seating and tables in a variety of locations that offer maximum comfort, bearing in mind sun, shade, wind and seasonal variations
- locate seating with the back to a wall, fence or vegetated backdrop where possible. Seating should provide views of other park users and features



Seat at Little Huia provides panoramic views across the bay

- do not place seating or tables too close to bins, to avoid unpleasant rubbish odours affecting users.
- select seating for comfort while also considering aesthetic appeal
- provide seating and tables that accommodate a wide range of abilities, ages and physical needs, where practicable. Allow for wheelchair and mobility scooter use if the park is accessible by these user groups
- use tables with centralised legs which enable wheelchairs to push in beneath the table top



Large concrete pad surrounds picnic table at Armour Bay

- allow sufficient hardstand space (1m) at the ends of picnic tables where wheelchair use is likely, this can be reduced down to 400mm where wheelchair use is not likely
- provide arm rests to assist users getting in and out of seats

## 3.4 Tracks, paths, boardwalks, bridges and lookouts

Environment	 NF	 CH	 CS	 OG	 RI	 TA	 VC
Applicability							

Paths within the heritage area connect people to nature, and provide opportunities for recreation within bush and coastal settings, far removed from the sights and sounds of the city. They enhance the physical and social wellbeing of people of the region and connect to significant natural and cultural sites. Paths encompass a wide range of track types depending on the site conditions, level of use and anticipated user groups. Paths may pass through areas of unique, often steep terrain that is exposed to high levels of rainfall during the winter months.

As tracks and paths play a role in vectoring weeds and plant pests - including kauri dieback disease that can be carried along paths by people with muddy footwear - extreme care must be taken when developing new tracks to ensure they avoid known areas of kauri ecosystem.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- connect paths to surrounding recreational nodes, existing path and road networks and the adjacent community
- work with existing landforms to ensure that earthworks are kept to minimum
- minimise and if possible avoid earthworks near streams
- minimise vegetation clearance and avoid the disturbance of rare or threatened plants
- ensure paths avoid areas that contain kauri wherever possible
- avoid or bridge sensitive ecosystems and tree roots
- reduce visual impact by not locating paths on prominent ridgelines or within important viewshafts. Use a backdrop of landform or natural vegetation where possible
- protect existing site features such as sensitive ecologies, heritage features, existing trees and vegetation. Note that boardwalks may be appropriate in sensitive areas
- rationalise the number and alignment of paths to optimise access without unnecessary path infrastructure

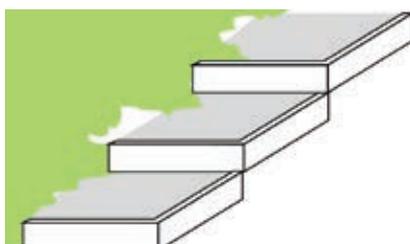
#### Ensure access and usability:

- ensure paths are designed to meet the needs of all existing and/or potential user groups, are suited to pedestrian volumes and desire lines, and include ample signage, particularly at entrances and junctions.
- ensure path surfaces are appropriate to the type of activity they have been designed for (refer Track Description Table on page 50)
- wherever feasible provide for universal accessibility, including wheelchairs, mobility scooters, pushchairs and access for the sight impaired
- provide rest opportunities to add interest to the route. Ensure seating doesn't obstruct movement along paths
- locate seats to encourage surveillance of the network and to allow appreciation of views and activities
- provide looped tracks rather than dead ends where appropriate

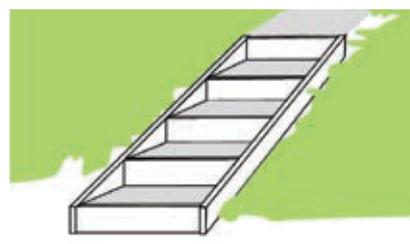
### Guidance diagrams



Unformed path (marker post only) or compacted gravel path (no edge) within low lying vegetation or bush area



Boxed, compacted gravel steps that sit into one side of embankment



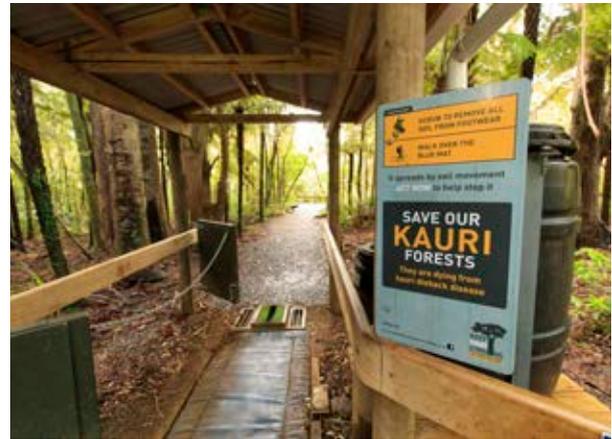
Boxed, compacted gravel steps

**Ensure safety and visibility:**

- ensure paths located in parks containing kauri are constructed of compacted gravel as a minimum standard
- establish phyto-sanitary shoe cleaning stations at key locations on the track network
- provide fencing to sections of path easily accessible to kauri
- ensure tracks and paths have well drained surfaces, free from ponded surface water to prevent the spread of kauri dieback, weeds and other pathogens via muddy boots
- ensure tracks and paths are stable, firm, even, slip resistant (as per the Building Code) and obstacle free

**Ensure sense of place and right materials:**

- use durable materials on tracks and paths that attract high numbers of visitors, if this is achievable without causing adverse environmental effects
- select materials that complement the parkland environment, are simple and unifying
- keep tracks and paths in proportion with their surroundings
- consider locally available materials for track and path surfaces, to reflect the colours and textures of the area
- ensure materials used are durable and appropriate for the location, e.g. marine grade stainless steel components in coastal environments
- ensure any proposed timber comes from a sustainably managed forest and is approved by one of the following:
  - a. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) - an international, non-governmental, organisation supporting a scheme for forest products, which provides a credible guarantee that the product comes from a well-managed forest
  - b. New Zealand forestry industry, through its National Standard for Environmental Certification of well-managed Plantation Forests in New Zealand
  - c. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) - an independent, non-governmental organisation, which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. These certifications can be requested from timber suppliers



Example of phyto-sanitary station at track entrance

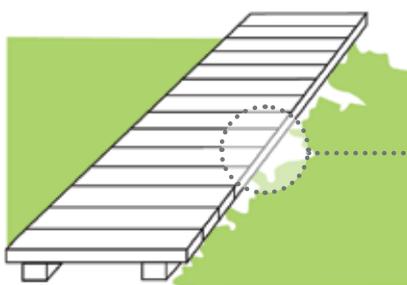
- consider the 'whole of life' of the elements, including ease of supply and life expectancy
- explore the use of recycled materials to form these structures

**Ensure ease of maintenance:**

- ensure a minimum serviceable life of 30 years for concrete paths, 5 years for aggregate paths, 25 years for timber boardwalks and 50 years for lookouts
- avoid usage of artificial drainage features
- ensure all components, materials and finishes can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors

**References/guidelines**

- Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, *New Zealand Building Code*, 3rd edition (January 2017)
- SNZ HB 8630:2004 New Zealand Handbook - Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures



Timber boardwalk



Low kickrails for low timber boardwalk



Timber handrail for safety from falling as required by the New Zealand Building Code

## Track Description Table

Track type	Description
<p>Paths</p>  <p>Huia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically used for walking networks in urban and suburban parks</li> <li>• Typically minimum of 1.8m wide, plus clearance from vegetation and other side obstructions</li> <li>• Should have easy grades and all-weather surfaces, and (if unavoidable) steps</li> <li>• Typically consist of concrete or compacted gravel surfaces, and may contain timber boardwalks and bridges over permanent waterways or other site obstacles</li> <li>• Add black oxide and expose the surface of concrete paths to minimise glare and disguise staining</li> </ul>
<p>Shared paths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically used for greenway routes, cycleways and main connecting routes through urban parks</li> <li>• Typically 3m wide plus clearance from vegetation and side obstructions</li> <li>• Typically two way and shared by cyclists and pedestrians</li> </ul>
<p>Walking tracks</p>  <p>Laingholm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically used for walking networks in forest, bush, riparian and coastal parks</li> <li>• Should be a minimum of 1.0m wide with drained surfaces</li> <li>• Typically consist of a compacted aggregate surface, and may contain timber boardwalks and bridges over permanent wet areas and waterways</li> <li>• Add GAP7 to hoggin paths to reduce glare</li> <li>• Should have easy to moderate grades with limited provision of steps on excessively steep areas</li> <li>• Should avoid sensitive ecosystems and tree roots</li> </ul>
<p>Tramping tracks</p>  <p>Vale Park, Henderson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically used for walking networks through wilderness areas</li> <li>• Should be a minimum of 1.0m wide</li> <li>• Consist of formed and drained surfaces</li> <li>• May contain steep grades and difficult terrain</li> </ul>
<p>Boardwalks and bridges</p>  <p>Piha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically include stream crossings within green corridors</li> <li>• Should be a minimum width of 1.8m where wheelchair use is anticipated</li> <li>• Maintain a 2m landing at each end of the bridge where possible</li> <li>• Apply a non-slip surface when located in damp and shady areas</li> <li>• Maintain clear sight lines on entry and exit to enable bridge users to identify other users on the bridge</li> <li>• Install appropriate barriers/handrails as per the Building Code to mitigate fall-height hazards</li> <li>• Install kick rails to prevent users from veering off platform edges where a fall-height barrier is not required</li> </ul>
 <p>Arataki (Regional Park)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should consider climatic factors such as wind and rain to optimise the comfort of users</li> <li>• Should consider the sensitivity of the structure to its surroundings when seen from other vantage points</li> <li>• Consider surrounding vegetation to ensure view shafts are not compromised</li> <li>• Install barriers and handrails as required by the New Zealand Building Code to mitigate fall-height hazards</li> </ul>

## 3.5 Barriers, bollards, retaining walls & gates

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Barriers, bollards and gates should be used to restrict vehicular and pedestrian movement and to demarcate 'pedestrian only' or 'vehicle only' spaces. Retaining walls may be used in areas of sloping topography to create flat platforms for pedestrian access or recreation purposes. These elements could be suitable in all park environments depending on the adjacent land use and park use.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- coordinate gate locations with the pedestrian or vehicle access network
- use barriers, fences and gates instead of bollards when the emphasis is on park-user safety, rather than vehicle exclusion
- ensure fall-height hazards are suitably mitigated by appropriate barriers and non-climbable sidings as per the building code
- space bollards at maximum 1500mm spacings, and ensuring a minimum width of 1200mm between bollards to allow wheelchairs, scooters and prams to pass through bollards without restriction
- site bollards within the footpath where the park adjoins the road corridor

#### Ensure access and usability:

- ensure concrete pads, footings or connections to the ground are flush with ground level, to avoid becoming a tripping hazard
- incorporate lockable vehicle access gates where required, making sure gates are supported at the non-hinge ends to avoid damage
- ensure that pedestrian and vehicular gates are universally accessible

#### Ensure safety and visibility:

- use visually permeable barriers, fences and gates to allow for passive surveillance and to deter graffiti
- ensure structures do not block views and maintain clear sightlines
- minimise the height of solid fences to allow passive surveillance
- locate structures to minimise hazard and error, i.e. out of the line of travel to assist the partially sighted
- consider whether a fall height barrier may be required, depending on the height of the retaining wall and the topography and ground surface below the wall
- ensure design of safety from falling barriers complies with the building code
- consider the geotechnical, structural and drainage

#### requirements of retaining walls

- avoid using post and rail or post and rope/chain barriers to eliminate trip hazards. Note: post and rope barriers are appropriate when used to demarcate access through sand dunes in coastal environments



Post and rope fence through sand dunes at Piha

#### Ensure sense of place and right materials:

- consider natural retaining methods, such as rip rap stone armouring, earth shaping, grass slopes and planted batters in lieu of engineered retaining structures
- consider natural materials and solutions where possible, such as raised kerbs, vegetation, furniture, rocks and earth mounding in place of barriers, fences, gates and bollards, to avoid excessive clutter
- seek uniformity and consistency of structures across the park
- select materials that complement the parkland environment, and are simple, natural and unifying
- co-locate structures against a backdrop of vegetation or natural landform where possible
- consider the materials, colours, and form when designing bespoke structures, to ensure they are complementary to the setting and function of the park as a whole and add to its sense of place

- ensure materials used are durable and appropriate for the location, e.g. marine grade stainless steel components should be used in coastal environments
- render metal fences in dark recessive colours in bush settings and use thin stainless steel barriers where the predominant backdrop is sky. Timber and stone fences should generally be left in their natural state, although this should be considered on a site by site basis



Black metal barrier with stainless steel wires on the Tasman lookout track, South Piha

- ensure gates match the character of the accompanying fence
- keep the number of bollards to a minimum
- use H4 treated pine for timber bollards. Slightly angle timber end grains so that water does not pond on the top of the bollard. Avoid staining, waxing or painting timber



Timber bollards with angled tops restrict vehicle access onto Tangiwai Reserve

- incorporate graffiti protection and standardised components into fences to reduce maintenance costs
- minimise the visual appearance of retaining walls. The sheer height of walls may be screened with plants or by stepping
- ensure retaining wall structures are in proportion with their surroundings
- consider the 'whole of life' of elements and components, including ease of supply and sustainability

**Ensure ease of maintenance:**

- ensure all components, materials and finishes can be serviced and maintained by New Zealand based contractors
- select bollards that have a minimum serviceable life of 15-20 years

## Guidance diagram

Locate barriers and fences against a backdrop of vegetation where possible. Consider building 'sense of place' elements into automatic gates/barriers

Consider using seating, logs or rocks in place of barriers or bollards in front of carparking

Consider using planted site mounding/earth bunds instead of barriers, fences, gates and bollards

Rocks can be used to act as barriers as well as seating

Avoid unnecessary infrastructure, particularly within dune systems. A post and rope fence will suffice in most instances.

Signs or other site furniture can be used in place of bollards

Use marine grade stainless steel barriers/handrails on lookouts or viewing areas where the sky or coast is the predominant backdrop

Where possible locate track back from edge of embankment and use planting as a barrier



## 3.6 Buildings, shelters and toilets

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

Built structures within parks provide a range of amenities for the comfort, education and enjoyment of park users. They should provide a positive contribution to the parks, adding to the character, identity and heritage of a space while meeting the functional requirements of a diverse range of users. Building such as toilets, changing room and structures are key components of park infrastructure. The design and placement of these structures is critical as built structures can have a significant visual impact on the environment, ensuring that the form, colour and textures of a building are sensitive to the surrounding landscape is a key outcome.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- keep built structures to a minimum in order to minimise impacts on the natural character of the park
- consider the location in the context of the whole park
- consider how an area can accommodate an increase in use and supporting infrastructure such as paths, buildings and parking. These structures can increase the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in an area, placing a strain on sensitive environments
- set buildings into the landscape and avoid prominent locations such as ridgelines in order to minimise negative visual impacts
- combine or cluster built structures together to minimise their overall visual impact
- locate buildings against a backdrop of vegetation and low foreground vegetation to lessen their visual impact
- consider the appropriateness of siting buildings on or near heritage or cultural features



Toilets and changing rooms at Te Henga set into the landscape

#### Ensure access and usability:

- identify the range of likely user groups and their particular needs and requirements. Design multi-use buildings and structures where possible, to ensure the broadest possible usage

- design buildings to be universally accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities
- provide minimum basic facilities, including soap, in all public toilets to support healthy communities

#### Ensure safety and visibility:

- locate buildings in close proximity to activity areas to encourage passive surveillance and optimise use
- encourage community ownership of the asset



Toilets at Piha Domain, easily accessible from Seaview Road

#### Ensure sense of place and right materials:

- ensure the building responds to the each park's history, culture, landscape and local community
- use materials and colours that blend with the local landscape
- consider building cladding that integrates with the surrounding environment
- consider how resistant building cladding is to graffiti
- consider natural materials that weather with time
- direct views from building, shelter and toilet entrances out towards the landscape, to reinforce important vistas and view shafts



Timber clad toilets and changing rooms at North Piha Strand

**Achieve sustainable building design:**

- incorporate energy efficient design principles and renewable or recycled materials

- use site generated power where possible
- incorporate sustainable water use features, such as low flush toilets, low volume shower heads, on-demand washbasin taps and bore or tank water
- collect rainwater for toilet flushing or irrigation
- incorporate green or living roofs for stormwater detention and filtration

**Ensure ease of maintenance:**

- enable regular maintenance to be undertaken with ease, including easy access for service vehicles
- use robust materials to deter vandalism
- ensure all built elements, materials and facilities can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors
- use materials that are resistant to weathering and erosion

## Guidance diagram

Design angled rather than peaked roofs. Investigate incorporating energy efficient, sustainable design principles such as solar panels, renewable materials, rainwater collection, low flush toilets, and green or living roofs for stormwater detention and filtration

Use of natural timber cladding that weathers with time

Incorporate foreground planting to soften the impact of the building into the landscape. Ensure planting is under 1m high

Locate buildings in high activity areas such as car parks, to encourage passive surveillance and optimise use

Locate building, shelters and toilets against a backdrop of vegetation to lessen their visual impact

Design buildings and access to buildings to be universally accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities

Co-locate (cluster) furniture such as seating and drinking fountains or showers next to buildings to avoid clutter

Rocks can be used to act as barriers as well as seating



CARPARK

## 3.7 Carparking

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

Carparks enable people to conveniently and directly access local parks. They need to be safe, robust and designed to withstand wear and tear. They should provide sufficient levels of parking to accommodate users, while minimising visual impacts and ecological disturbance. Integration of vegetation and stormwater functions in and around carpark edges will add biological function and mitigate adverse effects of the development.

Carparking areas are appropriate within most local park environments where there is an identified need, with the exception of the thoroughfare/accessway park environment which primarily services the needs of the local community rather than visitors to the area.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- determine whether on-site parking is required by analysing the provision of parking and transport options in the surrounding area
- work with existing landform to ensure earthworks are kept to minimum
- ensure the carpark scale is relative to its anticipated level of use and is in context with any surrounding buildings or structures
- reduce visual impacts by not locating carparks on prominent ridgelines or within important view shafts
- protect existing site features such as gullies, heritage features, existing trees and vegetation. Incorporate access roads and carparking sensitively around these features
- locate carparks against a backdrop of landform and/or vegetation
- locate carparks close to important recreational areas and buildings
- locate car parks next to activities or buildings that provide natural surveillance over the site



Carpark at Les Waygood Park, Piha, located in close proximity to the beach access, toilets (LHS) and the Piha Community Pre-school (RHS)

#### Ensure access and usability:

- consider sealing carpark surfaces within high usage parks
- provide entry and exit to the carpark via one or more vehicle crossings
- provide mobility parking spaces and suitable barrier free access routes between mobility parking and the park as per NZS 4121:2001
- provide universal access to key park facilities where practicable. This includes providing routes for pedestrians and mobility devices which have minimum or no obstructions
- design for expected average levels of carpark use, not for peak demand capacity

#### Ensure safety and visibility:

- only light carparks where use of the facilities is anticipated after dark
- if lighting is required for security and safety purposes provide down-lights which shed less light into the night sky to protect the darkness of the ranges
- consider user and vehicle safety by applying the principles of CPTED to carpark design
- ensure configuration of parking bays maintains sight lines and view shafts through the carpark
- ensure any islands of landscaping, large trees or banks within carparks do not create visual obstructions.

#### Achieve good car park layout:

- avoid large platforms. Integrate a ribbon of smaller nodes with fewer parking bays, rather than single large lots
- provide for safe pedestrian movement within the carpark and to the facilities it is serving
- provide for easy circulation of vehicles within the carpark, and for on-site turn around where necessary to avoid vehicles reversing back onto public roads.
- use vegetation and natural contour instead of structural barriers for traffic calming measures where possible

- design for single-lane circulation to minimise the width of surface area across the car park. Vehicles should be encouraged to circulate in a logical and continuous manner
- install wheel stops or landscaping to prevent inappropriate movement of vehicles through the carpark



One way circulation at Titirangi Beach carpark. Wheel stops control movement around carpark

- employ logical design, landscaping and surface treatments to channel traffic and keep vehicle speeds down
- include landscaping in appropriate places to enhance the visual appearance of the site
- regularly trim and maintain any landscaping to ensure sightlines are not impeded and car parking areas maintain a high level of amenity
- incorporate low impact design for stormwater runoff e.g. rain gardens, swales, permeable asphalt or concrete etc.

**Ensure sense of place and right materials:**

- keep the ecological and physical footprint of the carpark to a minimum

- use materials, colours and forms that blend with the local landscape
- use natural materials that weather with time



Large boulders restrict vehicle access at Te Henga Recreation Reserve carpark

**Ensure ease of maintenance:**

- ensure regular maintenance can be undertaken with ease
- select materials that withstand wear and tear

**Special parking:**

While most public parking demands are for light vehicles and can be met by standard sized parking spaces, certain locations such as tourist attractions, boat ramps, camping grounds and areas used for horse riding are likely to generate a demand for larger vehicles.

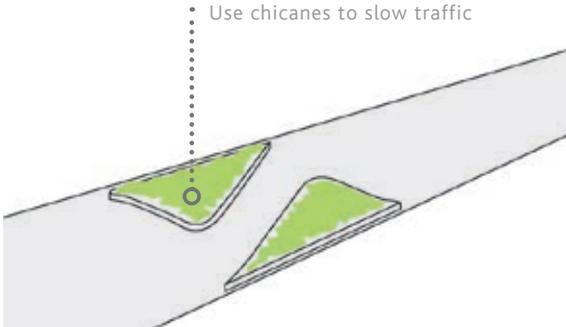
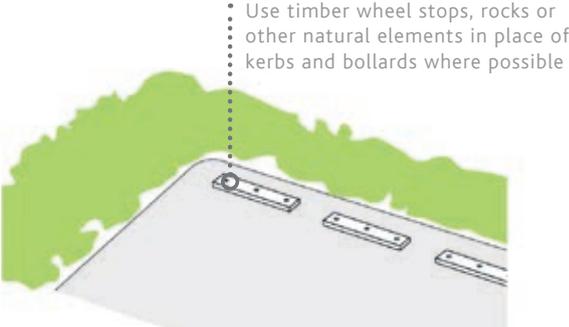
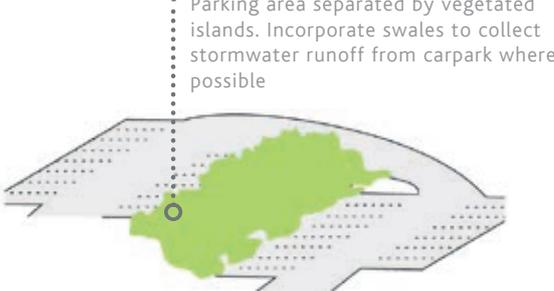
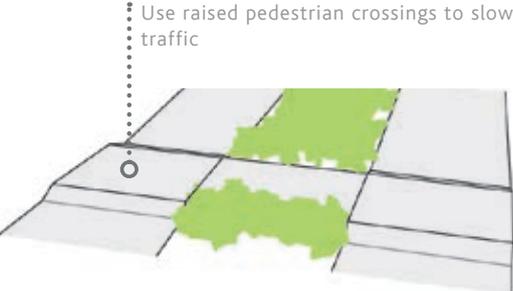
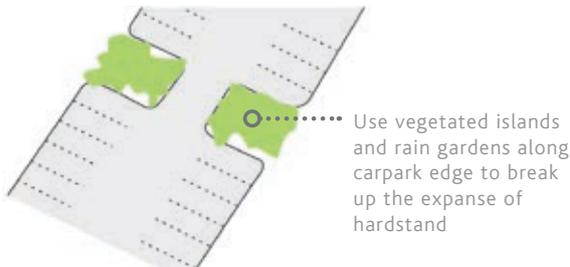
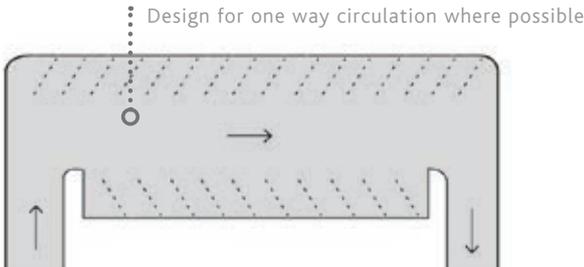
**Accommodate larger vehicles:**

- provide dedicated facilities for these vehicles, to avoid them parking inefficiently across a number of standard sized spaces
- choose the number and size of special parking spaces in accordance with the likely demand created by the attraction

**References/guidelines**

- Auckland Transport Code of Practice (ATCOP) 2013, Chapter 11 - Parking
- NZS 4121:2001, New Zealand Standard Design for Access and Mobility - Buildings and Associated Facilities

# Guidance diagrams



## 3.8 Playgrounds, hardcourts and skateparks

Environment	NF	CH	CS	OG	RI	TA	VC
Applicability	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓

Play is a vital part of childhood. Outdoor play has numerous benefits, including growing a child's resilience, self confidence, initiative and creativity, as well as increasing connection, appreciation and stewardship of the natural environment. There is no better place for children to learn to play than the outdoors and there is no better play resource than nature. The wealth and diversity of natural environments within the heritage area's local parks provides unlimited opportunities for informal natural play. These environments include beaches, sand dunes, beaches, streams and waterways, low tide mud flats and forested areas.

Playgrounds, hardcourts and skateparks are also important components of play and target a wide range of users. These activities encourage positive attitudes to physical activity and social interaction, and are valuable hubs for community gathering. Successfully designed playspaces typically combine a mixture of custom designed and 'off-the-shelf' play equipment, provide universal access, offer shade and incorporate natural elements including planting. Safety is important and must be carefully balanced with the need to provide risk and challenge for children of all ages.

Playgrounds, hardcourts and skateparks are most appropriate within open grassed environments and village centres. Formal playspaces are less appropriate in native forest environments, riparian and thoroughfare/accessway environments due to their sensitive ecosystems and lack of available open space.

### Design guidelines

#### Respond to the surrounding context:

- consider the site's unique landform and ecological characteristics in the design
- work with existing landforms to ensure earthworks are kept to a minimum
- use local materials and colours, incorporate neighboring trees and areas of planting to provide shade
- incorporate natural materials into the space, especially at coastal sites or those in ecological or rural environments
- consider the location of playgrounds in relation to existing shade trees
- design for wilderness play and encourage children to actively engage with natural areas containing trees, rocks, sand and earth etc
- provide opportunities for children to interact with and manipulate the natural environment. This could include the use of natural materials (e.g. rocks and logs) as play experiences, integrating planting into playspaces and providing water play
- consider natural play in natural areas
- identify opportunities to provide educational outcomes, either through the sensitive incorporation of ecological areas or the use of interpretive signage or sculpture
- create site specific designs that incorporate a combination of both 'off-the-shelf' play elements and bespoke or natural elements that respond to the local character
- incorporate structures such as lookouts, slides and climbing frames into steep areas
- sensitively incorporating built elements, such as boardwalks, platforms, bird hides and fort structures into the surrounding landscape

- consider issues such as noise, access and parking in relation to any sensitive neighboring properties
- consider the appropriateness of siting play spaces on or near heritage and cultural features

#### Ensure access and usability by:

- locate play spaces in areas of high passive surveillance
- cluster skate parks with basketball courts, playspaces, toilets, seating and other site furniture to maximise use and encourage positive behaviour by both users and spectators



Clustered play activities at Huia Domain with basketball court, playground and picnic tables and seating

- limit barriers to access and provide greater levels of universal access where practicable for children and their caregivers
- consider sight, social and mental impairments children may have and provide opportunities for those children to play

- provide a variety of play experiences including individual, social, active and creative play types
- provide challenge and risk through a series of graduated play experiences
- design to include play experiences that provide for rocking and spinning, swinging, sliding, tunneling and squeeze experiences and activities that promote gross motor skills e.g. climbing and balancing
- consider safety surfacing that allows for universal access

**Ensure safety and visibility:**

- provide shaded seating for small and large groups to sit in an area immediately adjacent to the play space
- ensure seating areas have clear surveillance over play areas
- consider using fixed or seasonally installed shade structures if this function is not being provided by vegetation
- locate play spaces away from busy roads. Use fencing in exceptional circumstances only. Consider integrating soft edges into the play space such as planting and earth mounding if containment is necessary to protect children from harm
- provide relevant amenities such as toilets, picnicking and drinking fountains in close proximity to play spaces

**Ensure sense of place and right materials:**

- ensure the play space responds to the particular park's history, culture, landscape and local community
- use materials and colours that blend with the local landscape



Rock and timber edging at Piha Domain playspace

- ensure materials are durable and appropriate for the location e.g. marine grade stainless steel components in coastal environments
- consider natural materials (e.g. timber and rock) that weather with time

**Ensure ease of maintenance:**

- continue formal inspections of all structures and play equipment to ensure they are maintained to a high standard
- use robust materials to deter vandalism
- ensure manufactured structures and components can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors

**References/guidelines**

- Auckland Council (2017). *Takaro: Investing in Play Discussion Document*
- City Design Limited & Community Planning Group (2001). *Skate Auckland - Auckland City 2001 Skate Strategy*. Auckland City Council

## 3.9 Planting

<b>Environment</b>							
<b>Applicability</b>							

The vegetation and landforms of the heritage area are regionally and nationally important, being one of only two continuous tracts of indigenous vegetation remaining in the mainland Auckland region. Ecological areas within local parks include forest and bush, coastal dune systems, rivers and streams. Native revegetation and restoration of natural ecosystems are important aspects of planting within local parks.

Vegetation is often the most significant feature of the park landscape and local parks within the heritage area are no exception. Vegetation affects and enhances the user experience of the park, the parks ecological value and its climatic function. It also provides character, comfort, habitat, climate control, site stabilisation and amenity.

Consideration must also be given to minimising the spread of kauri dieback disease (refer 3.9.1) and the eradication of weed species.

### Design guidelines

#### General planting

##### Ensure good siting:

- identify vegetation of aesthetic, historic or ecological value that should be protected
- identify and understand the existing plant communities on and around the site
- understand the wider ecological context of the site, including bird flight paths and migration patterns
- identify if any pest or weed species exist on the site, and plan for their removal and replacement with suitable native species
- identify soil and hydrological conditions
- tie planting into the natural landforms
- ensure size and growth characteristics of chosen species are appropriate for the location
- use planting to create natural buffers around water systems to enhance water quality
- take precautions working around existing trees; protecting canopy, roots and root crowns from damage

##### Native and eco-sourced planting:

- use eco-sourced native plants whenever possible
- plant natives from the Waitākere Ecological District

#### Ecological areas

Ecological areas present within the heritage area's local parks include forests, coastal dune systems and rivers and streams. Vegetation is a core element of these environments, and a thorough understanding of the existing vegetation and its ecological role will ensure proposed planting improvements will add value to these areas.

##### Use restoration planting and enhance ecosystems:

- assess the natural patterns and history of the landscape to understand the original condition of the site
- prioritise areas for restoration planting based on
  - ecological significance
  - opportunities for improving ecosystem viability
  - connections and corridors
  - the degree of threat
  - the extent to which the area has been degraded
- ensure plant and animal pests are controlled and where possible eradicated
- reduce fragmentation and isolation of existing habitats by creating or restoring linkages with other natural areas and ecological corridors
- restore buffer areas to increase resilience
- use planting to stabilise areas prone to erosion such as hillsides, valleys or coastal edges
- provide higher density planting in areas vulnerable to erosion or damage by people or vehicles

#### Amenity planting

##### Use vegetation and planting to provide structure and amenity:

- establish a plant palette where different species perform a range of aesthetic and functional roles. Provide a hierarchy of planting with a key signature species or plant communities, and supporting secondary planting
- select species that grow in a manner appropriate to the scale of the place. Consider shade, orientation, landmarks, CPTED and ecological connections
- ensure landscape areas adjacent to heritage buildings or features are sympathetically planted
- use amenity planting to make entrances more appealing,

frame views or enhance landmark features

- use planting to reinforce walkways and circulation networks, and to keep people from wandering off tracks and paths
- use vegetation to minimise the visual and ecological impact of buildings, roads, paths and carparking on the landscape
- ensure adequate setback of tall-growing species around carparks, recreational structures and buildings
- use planting to bring year-round visual interest
- choose tree species that provide fairly clear sightlines along circulation networks
- use plants to integrate the site with its surrounding context. Bring key species from surrounding areas into the park
- ensure that any exotic species being planted will not dominate native species, create a mono-culture or reduce biodiversity
- consider the mature size of trees and shrubs, including the size and habit of root system
- consider the incorporation of educational planting

## Weeds

Weeds are invasive and pose a threat to the health and long-term survival of native vegetation and wildlife. The warm, moist climate of the ranges means that weed plant species can out-compete native plants which may lead to a permanent change in the structure of native plant communities and their ability to support native fauna.

Plant pests can spread throughout areas of indigenous vegetation from residential gardens with the help of birds, animals, wind, water and people. People also spread weeds through illegally dumping garden waste, the transporting of machinery, recreational gear, clothing and in topsoil.

## Manage weeds and invasive species:

- never plant invasive species, and review the weed register prior to plant selection
- eradicate all existing invasive or weed species from the site. Visit the Regional Pest Management Strategy to find out what weed species must be removed or managed
- remove nearby sources of re-infestation. Work with the community and volunteers to educate and encourage removal of weeds on nearby properties
- control weeds in accordance with Council's Weed Management Policy
- dispose of weeds in a way that does not cause further spread into new areas, or facilitate the spread of kauri dieback



Community weed bin at Huia Domain

## Ensure easy maintenance and management:

- produce maintenance plans for new areas of planting outlining key tasks to be completed each season
- monitor plant health for several years after planting, including replacement of plants that may have died
- consider canopy growth and root heave and whether these will impede vehicle or pedestrian movement
- look for opportunities to produce resources such as mulch on site. This will depend on whether weed or pest species are present

## Auckland Council fact sheets:

(available on the council website)

- Riparian zone management practices (TP148)
- Coastal planting guidelines 1-6
- Native forest restoration guide
- Caring for forest fragments
- Streambank planting guide
- Pest Plants of the Auckland Region, pest facts
- 
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## Other useful references:

- Auckland Council (August 2013). *Auckland Council Weed Management Policy for Parks and Open Spaces*.
- C Jack Craw (June 2015). *Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan*. Waitākere Ranges Local Board
- Waitākere City Council (1997). *A guide for planting and restoring the nature of Waitākere City*. Waitākere City Council
- Auckland Council (March 2018). *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan*.



## 3.9.1 Other considerations

### Kauri dieback

Kauri dieback is threatening kauri trees throughout the Upper North Island with extinction. The Waitākere forest is now the country's most heavily diseased area with more than half its substantial kauri areas showing symptoms of the disease. A recent Auckland Council report has found the number of diseased trees has more than doubled in five years, with almost one in five trees effected. Infected trees have been identified at a number of locations within the WRHA, including Titirangi and Piha (refer map in Appendix).

The water and soil borne pathogen that causes kauri dieback, *Phytophthora agathidicida*, was discovered in 2009, this microscopic pathogen infects kauri roots and starves trees to death. The pathogen can live for many years in its inactive state without a kauri anywhere nearby. It can also survive for many years above ground.

Kauri dieback has no known cure and the disease kills most if not all of the trees it infects. Trees of all sizes and ages are effected, from seedlings to the giant trees that predate human settlement. The disease is easily spread, and can be spread by just a pinhead of soil. Initial infection and early symptoms are currently difficult to detect, trees shows no signs of infection until their leaves turn yellow, canopies start to thin, and lesions producing copious amounts of resin (kauri gum) appear.

Soil disturbance associated with human activity poses the highest risk of kauri dieback spreading into new locations. The role of visitors in helping to spread the disease is clear with almost 70% of known dieback sites located within 50m of the track networks, and popular visitor destinations such as Piha and the Cascades being most affected. Within the dieback zones, factors such as slope and drainage are also affecting the spread of infected spores from the initial point of infection.

#### Track Closures

A rāhui (a type of tapu and customary prohibition) was laid over the Waitākere Forest (Te Wao Nui o Tiriwa) by Te Kawerau a Maki in late 2017 to prohibit human access, with the purpose of enabling the environment to regenerate. Subsequently, on the 1st May 2018 the forested areas of the Waitākere Ranges Resignal Park, along with higher-risk tracks in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park were closed. The Ministry for Primary Industries has also issued Controlled Area Notices (CANs) that apply across the currently open tracks within the forest. CANs are an enforceable mechanism under the Biosecurity Act that controls the movement of materials that may cause a biosecurity risk, in this case visible soil.

When these access restrictions are lifted all staff and/or contractors working in areas containing kauri should implement appropriate precautions for the management of kauri dieback, including:

- Use knowledge of kauri dieback distribution to plan any developments (i.e. paths and tracks) more effectively and avoid sites of known infection
- Ensuring a minimum standard of compacted gravel paths within parks containing kauri
- Establishment of phyto-sanitary shoe cleaning stations at key locations on the track network

For more information visit [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz)

### Myrtle rust

Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family (Myrtaceae family). The disease has recently been detected in a number of New Zealand locations including, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki for the first time. The disease poses a severe threat to very important native species including manuka and kanuka, which are commonly used in revegetation plantings, along with the iconic pohutukawa, various rata species and swamp maire. Commercially grown species such as eucalyptus, feijoa and guava could also be affected.



Myrtle rust spores are microscopic and can easily be dispersed across long distances by wind, or via birds, insects, people or equipment. Myrtle rust attacks the soft new growth including shoots, leaves, buds flowers and fruit. Symptoms include bright yellow powdery eruptions on leaves and stems, brown/grey rust pustules on older infected areas and severe infestations can kill affected plants and have long-term impacts on the regeneration of young plants and seedlings.

Comprehensive and authoritative advice on protocols and precautions for growing, transporting and planting Myrtaceae species is available on the NZ Plant Producers Inc. website: [www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerust](http://www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerust).

All staff and contractors involved with planting work should implement appropriate precautions for the management of myrtle rust, in accordance with the NZPPI protocols. Staff procuring plants should incorporate the relevant aspects of these requirements into all contracts for propagation, transport or planting that involves susceptible species.

In particular:

- If purchasing plants from a commercial nursery obtain a completed copy of the "nursery management declaration"
- Ensure a treatment record is available for non-commercially sourced plants
- Ensure that any myrtaceous plants are within the effective period of cover for the treatment used at the time of dispatch (details on different treatments and their cover periods are available on the NZPPI website).

## 3.10 Community art

Environment							
Applicability							

The heritage area has strong tangata whenua and historic associations that serve as reminders of the history of settlement and occupation in the region. The installation of artworks that illustrate and promote the tangata whenua and heritage values within local parks is encouraged to enhance visitor experience and increase public awareness of these values. Artworks can take on variety of forms and scales. They can also perform dual functions, or be incorporated into existing or proposed structures.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- consider the reason for introducing art into a public place, or relocating or modifying an existing artwork
- consider the location in the context of the whole park
- protect existing site features such as sensitive ecologies and heritage features
- consider artworks that can perform dual functions i.e. seating, fence or bridge, as a way to minimise clutter
- consider incorporating artwork into proposed buildings and structures to add to their sense of place
- consider providing artwork or interpretation for areas of outstanding or significant habitat or vegetation

#### Ensure safety and visibility:

- consider locating artworks in close proximity to activity areas to encourage passive surveillance
- consider the safety of proposed artwork, in particular its ability to be climbed on, or used as an entrapment spot
- encourage community ownership of the artwork

#### Ensure sense of place and right materials:

- establish artworks in key parks in conjunction with community groups where possible
- recognise and reflect the local and wider landscape context into which the artwork is to be placed

- recognise and protect significant heritage values of local parks
- liaise with mana whenua to identify sites and areas of significance within local parks, and to decide on appropriate forms of interpretation for sites of significance
- reflect sense of place of the local community through careful design detailing
- consider the materials, colours and form of bespoke elements to ensure they are complementary to the setting and park as a whole and add to its sense of place, where appropriate
- ensure materials are durable, robust and appropriate for the location e.g. marine grade stainless steel components in coastal environments
- consider natural materials that weather with time

#### Ensure easy maintenance:

- ensure all components, materials and finishes can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors
- consider graffiti and vandalism resistance

### References/guidelines

- Auckland Council (2015). *Toi Whitiki, Auckland's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan*

## Examples of community art within the WRHA



Carved entry gates at Arataki Visitors Centre\*



Mosaic sign with rocks and planting by Bruce Courtney\*



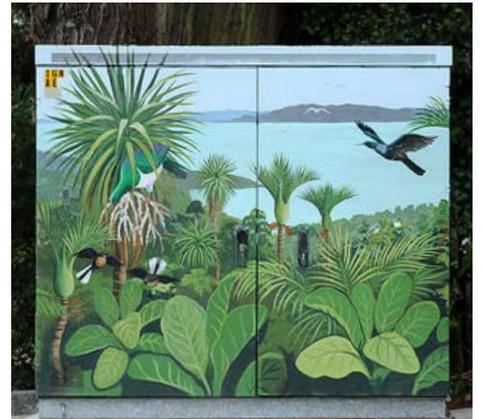
'Story of the Eel' bridge in Piha Domain



Pavement tile at Titirangi War Memorial



Welcome sign by artist Kate Millington\*



Painted utility box by Monique Endt at South Titirangi Road\*



12m carved Pou at the Arataki Visitors Centre carved by John Collins and Sunnah Thompson represents the ancestry of Te Kawerau a Maki\*



Titirangi roundabout sculpture by Lisa Higgins at the Titirangi Road/ Scenic Drive intersection\*

\* Not all example photographs are located within local parks, but are taken from a range of locations within the heritage area, including Regional Parks and road reserve.

## 3.11 Signage

Environment							
Applicability							

Signs are important within local parks and fulfill a range of wayfinding, directional, regulatory, cautionary and informative roles. They are appropriate within all park environments within the heritage area. Signage should be thoughtfully designed and located so as not to detract from the significant natural and cultural aspects of local parks.

### Design guidelines

#### Ensure good siting:

- ensure the scale of the signage is in the context of the surrounding landscape. Compact elements such as bollard signs may be more appropriate in some instances
- cluster signs with other built elements such as buildings and structures, to reduce the overall visual clutter
- use natural backdrops such vegetation or landform to reduce overall visual impact of signage. Avoid placing signs in the middle of large open spaces
- locate signs at carparks or at the start of tracks where possible
- locate signs on accessible pedestrian networks and ensure there is a barrier free route to the sign
- ensure the placement of signs does not detract from views or significant natural or cultural landscapes
- select locations with good passive surveillance to reduce the risk of vandalism
- minimise clutter and the use of multiple signs by combining information on a single sign
- identify where accessible toilets are provided and include this information on signage at the entrance to the park

#### Ensure sense of place and right materials:

- ensure the design is appropriate for the intent of the sign, ie directional/designative/regulatory/cautionary/

informative ensuring the scale of the sign is relative to the location

- design signs to enhance the appeal of the natural environment
- select materials and colours that blend with the local landscape
- select natural materials that weather with time
- ensure surfaces are non-reflective
- ensure signs are legible and that the lettering contrasts well with the background

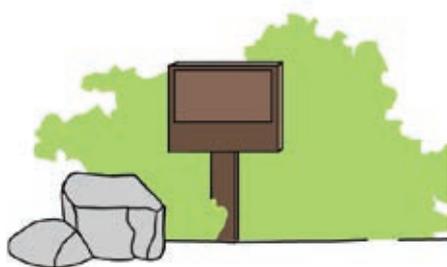
#### Ensure easy maintenance:

- ensure signage structures and elements can be serviced by New Zealand based contractors

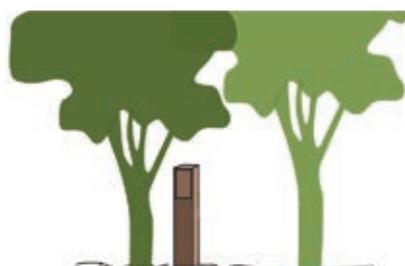
#### References/guidelines

- Auckland Council Signage Manual, July 2015: Version 15
- Auckland Council Interpretative Signage Manual, November 2012: Version 8
- Our Brand, Auckland Council brand manual, July 2017

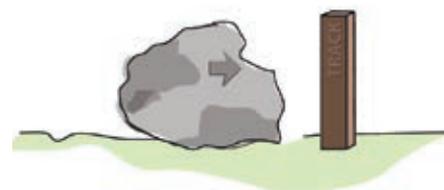
### Guidance Diagrams



Use natural backdrops such as shrub planting and land contour to reduce the overall impact of signage



Ensure the scale of the signage is context with the surrounding landscape



Consider engraved stone or wooden signage. Select materials that will weather with time (where appropriate), ensuring material remains visible

## Photos of existing signage within local parks



Naming sign at reserve entrance



Pole sign at reserve entrance



Interpretative sign at Piha Domain



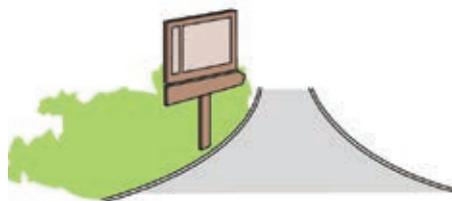
Interpretative signage at Les Waygood Park



Timber marker at Vale Park



Consider mounting signs in the ground to retain viewshafts



Minimise clutter and the use of multiple signs where a single sign could convey all the information



Ensure the placement of signs does not detract from views or significant natural or cultural landscapes



Figure 21. Te Henga Park, Nina Rattray, 2017.

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Figure 22. French Bay, Titirangi, Jay Farnworth, 2014.

## 5.0 Appendices

# Appendix A

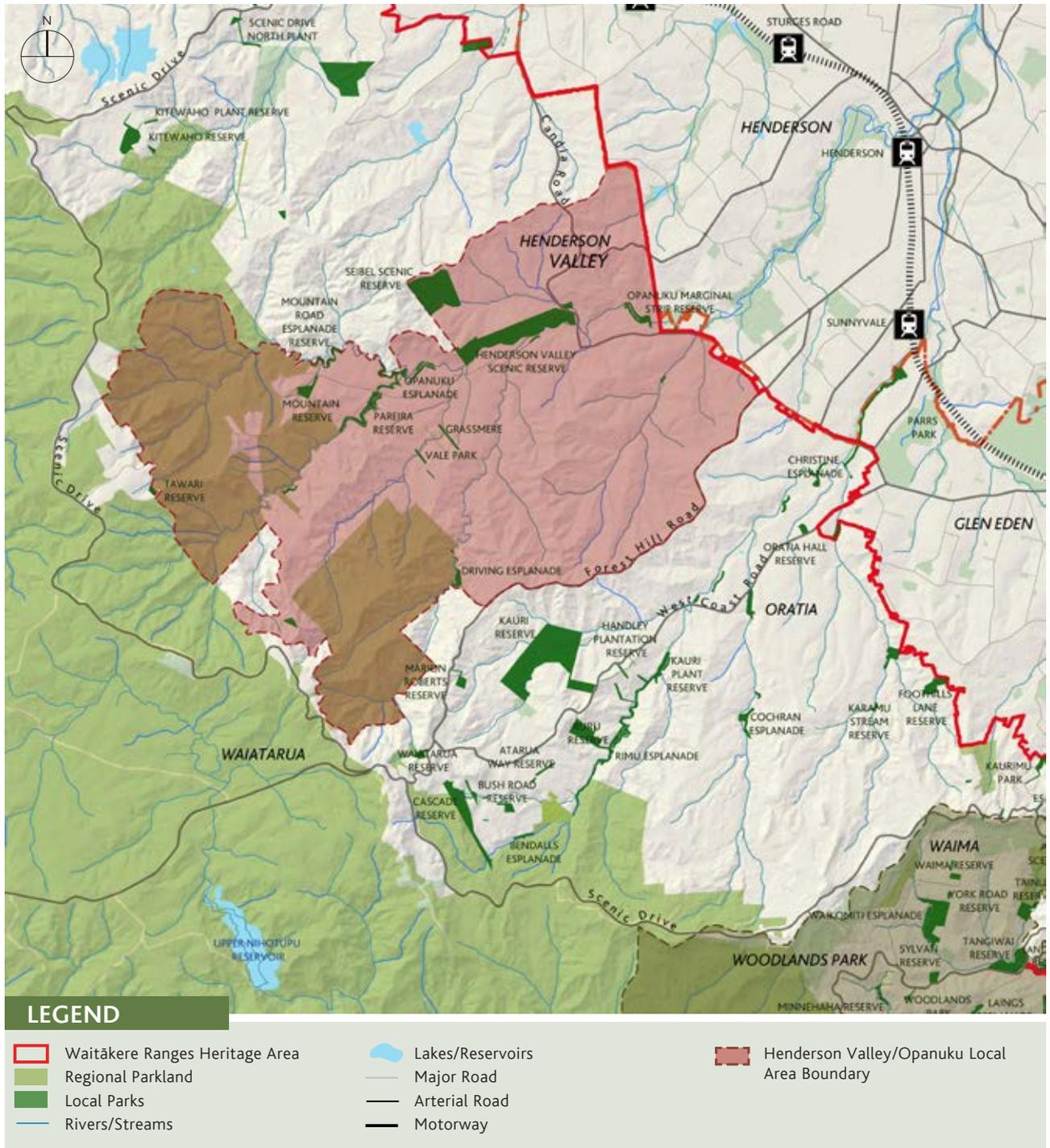
## Study area key map



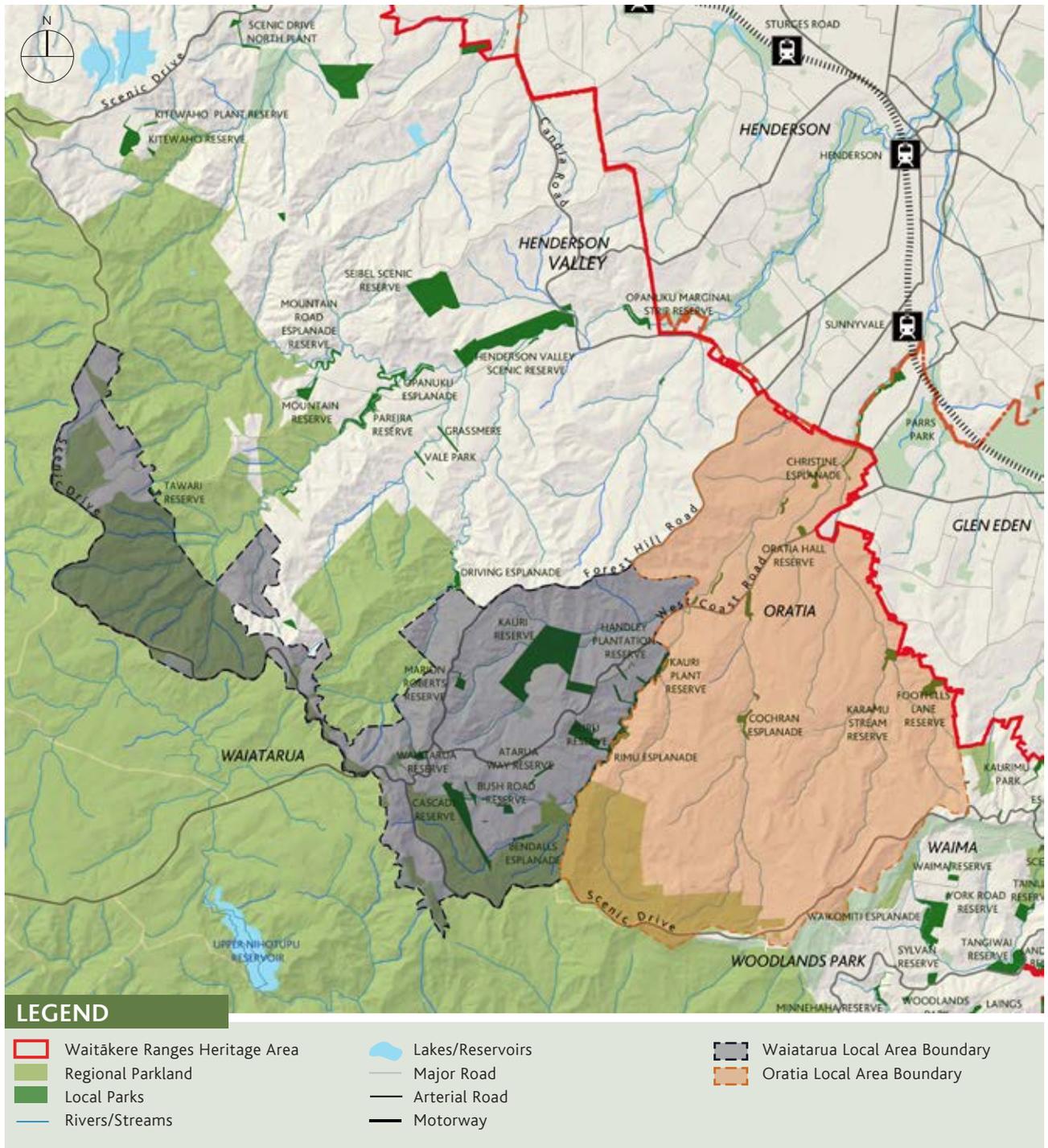
Map A. Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River valley



Map B. Henderson Valley/Opanuku



Map C. Waatarua and Oratia



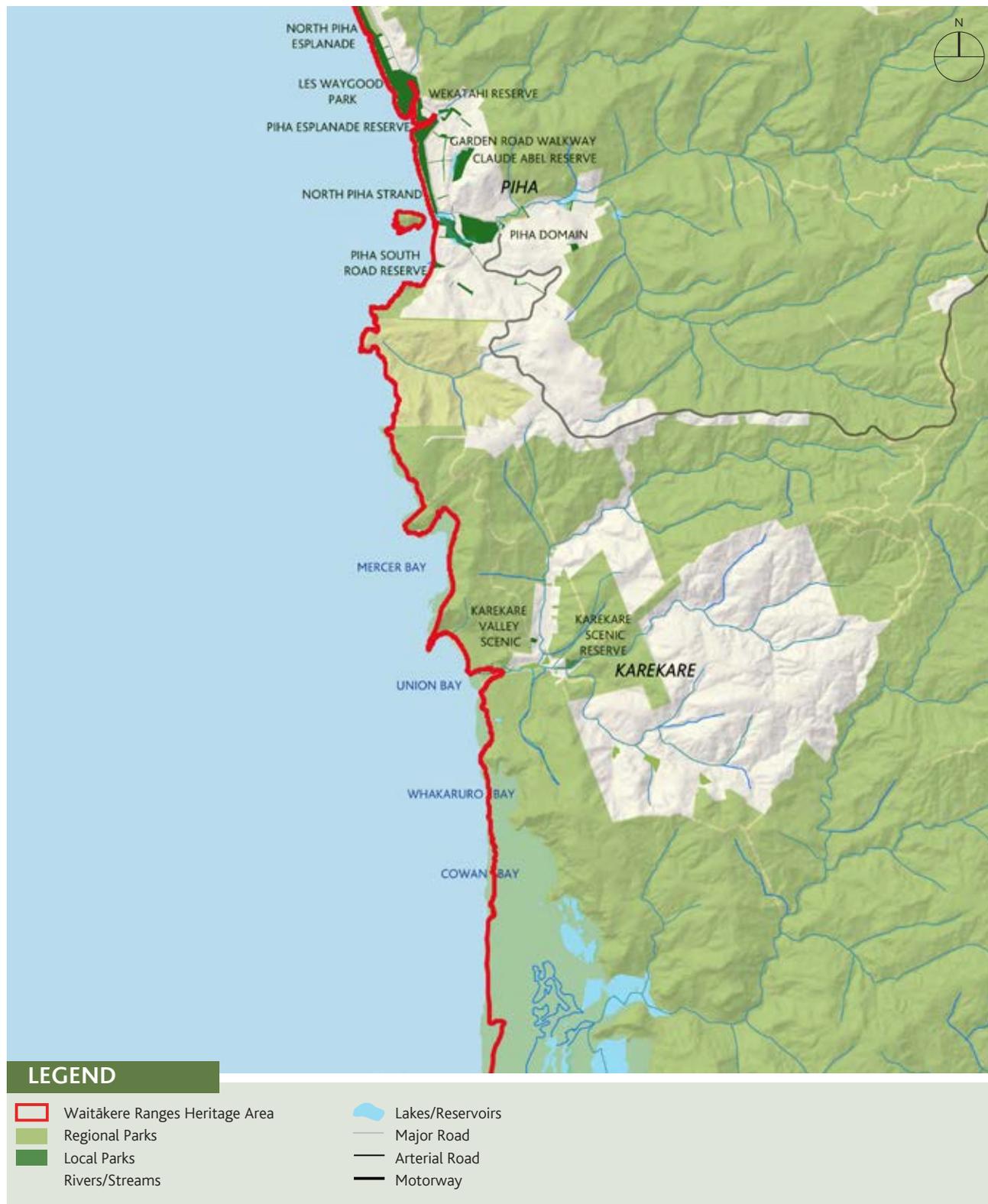
Map D. Titirangi and Muddy Creeks (Parau, Laingholm, Woodlands Park and Waimā)

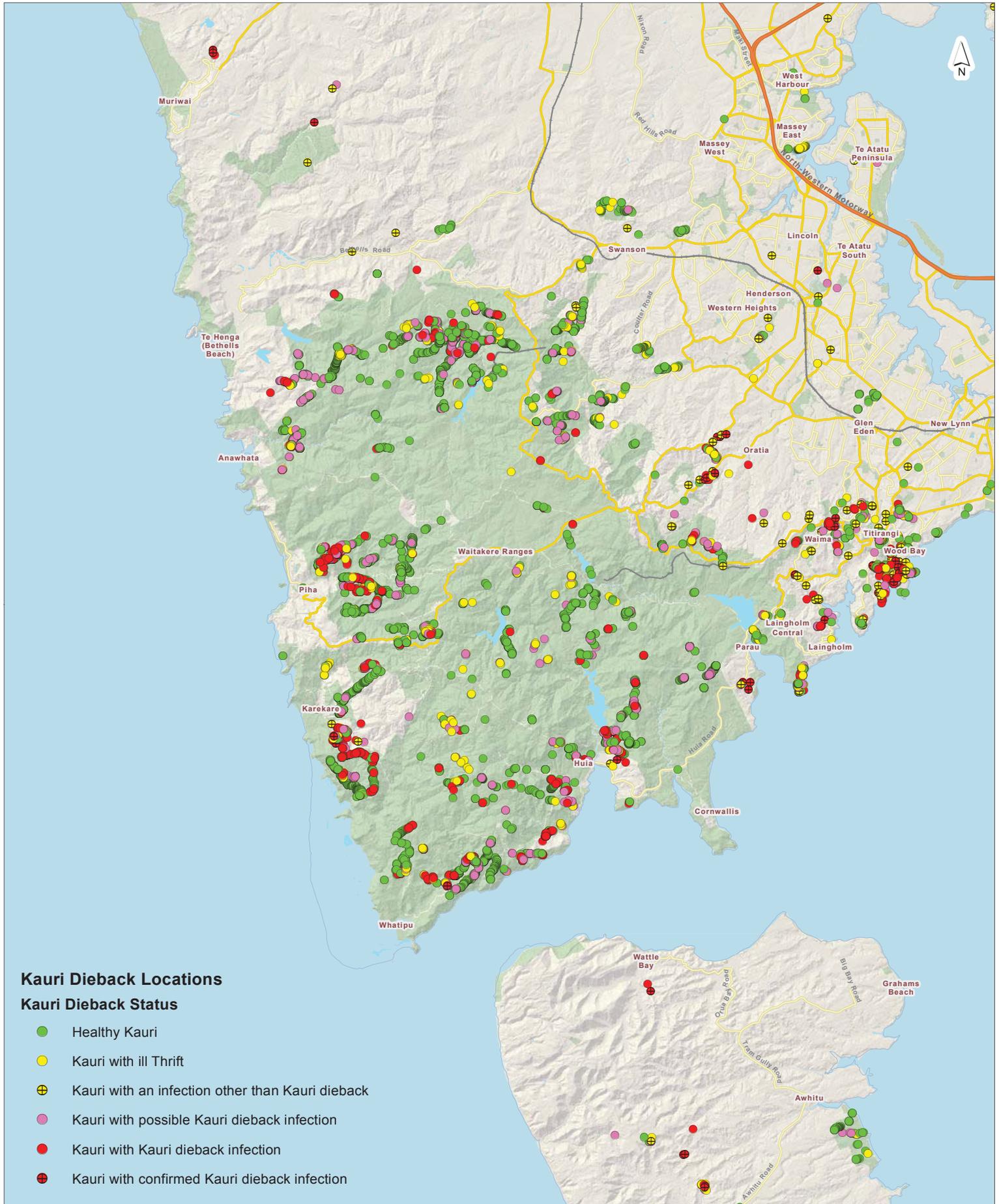


Map E. Huia local area



Map F. Anawhata/Piha/Karekare local area





**Kauri Dieback Locations**

**Kauri Dieback Status**

- Healthy Kauri
- Kauri with ill Thrift
- ⊕ Kauri with an infection other than Kauri dieback
- Kauri with possible Kauri dieback infection
- Kauri with Kauri dieback infection
- ⊕ Kauri with confirmed Kauri dieback infection

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0 850 1,700 2,550  
 Meters

Scale @ A3  
 = 1:100,000

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