

Victoria Park management plan

1.0 Introduction

Victoria Park is a significant public open space located within the western basin of the Central Business District. Travelling from the north it acts as a gateway to the CBD. As one of only a few large urban parks in the Central Area Victoria Park is an invaluable resource and vital part of the open space network. It lies within easy walking distance of the central city area, being approximately 800 metres from Queen Street.

The surrounding area is in a state of transition. Recently the Viaduct Harbour has become a focal point for entertainment and inner city living and consideration is currently being given to the future of the Western Reclamation. Higher density residential redevelopment of previously industrial and business zones is occurring in Freemans Bay. The established urban residential areas of Freemans Bay and Ponsonby extend to the north and west of the park. Both Freemans Bay and St Marys Bay residents have a close affinity with the park. In this context, Victoria Park is strategically located and is a significant landmark for the local area.

Being within the central city area with extensive road frontages, the park has a prominent location and together with its visually dominant perimeter of London Plane trees is a significant landscape feature for the local area.

The park also provides an important venue for recreation. It consists largely of flat, grassed playing fields encircled by an historic pathway, lined with London Plane trees. The path is used by both walkers and joggers. The fields are used extensively for active recreation, both formal and informal, the main codes being cricket, touch football, rugby, rugby league and soccer. A petanque court, children's playground and skate park also receive heavy usage. An area is leased for bowling greens.

Victoria Park is held in fee simple by Auckland City Council. The land is not a reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 but is recreation ground subject to the Local Government Act 2003. As such there is no statutory requirement to prepare a management plan for the park. This plan, once approved by the Community Board will have the status of a Council policy and does not constitute a Management Plan under the Reserves Act.

However, due to the park's strategic importance and the growing demands placed upon it and the sometimes conflicting requirements of different interests, it is appropriate to prepare a management plan to guide the park's future use and management. Management plans are tools that enable the administering body to balance the protection of natural resources and cultural values with the provision of recreational opportunities for the local and wider community.

This management plan provides an interim direction for the management of the park while key forward planning and policy work is being completed. It is important that Victoria Park is considered within the context of its surrounding area including potential land use and activity changes that may occur in the area in the next 10 years. This work is being undertaken as part of the CBD Strategic Directions project which could impact on the future of the park. The work includes:

- 'Auckland's CBD into the Future' Strategy
- Victoria Quarter Plan
- CBD Open Space Plan
- CBD Public Activities Strategy
- The Waterfront Strategy

This management plan is the first for Victoria Park. It is divided into seven sections as follows:

Section 1 - *Introduction* gives a brief overview of Victoria Park.

Section 2 - *Legislative context* details the legal status of the park, the purpose of management plans and the process followed for developing this Management Plan.

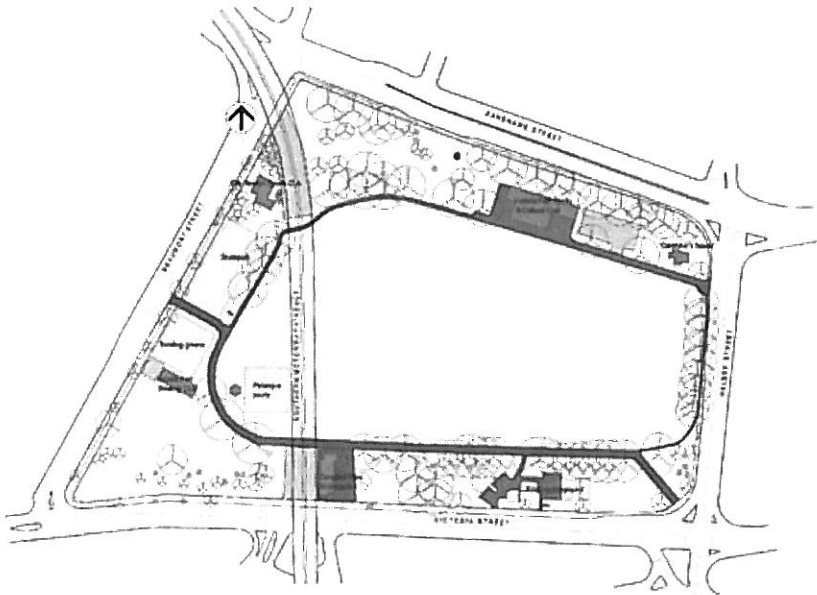
Section 3 - *Council framework* summarises the relevant Council documents that influence the management of the park.

Section 4 - *History* provides an historical context for the development of this area in general and then provides more direct history of the park itself.

Section 5 - *Enhancement and development opportunities* describes the existing situation in terms of the natural and physical environment, and opportunities for enhancement.

Section 6 - *Management objectives and policies* contains the vision for Victoria park and broad objectives and policies relating to the management, development and use of the park.

Section 7 - *Implementation* prioritises the actions required to implement the plan's objectives and policies.



2.0 Legislative context

2.1 Legal description

Victoria Park is 9 hectares in size, and is comprised of:

Lots 3 to 22 and 41 to 51, and Pt. Lots 1 and 2, Deeds Plan City No. 37, CT 598/120.

2.2 Land status

Victoria Park is held in fee simple title by Auckland City Council. It was formally acquired from the Auckland Harbour Board in 1989 and vested in the Council by notice in the New Zealand Gazette on 12 October 1989, No 181 p 5096. The land is a recreation ground administered under the Local Government Act 1974. Although not subject to the Reserves Act 1977, many of the Act's principles have been adopted in the management of the park including many of the provisions of Council's standard reserve lease contract.

2.3 Management plans

Victoria Park is not a Reserve subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act) but, given its strategic importance, a management plan will be prepared in the same way as that required by the provisions of the Act. Section 41(3) of the Act specifies that the purpose of a management plan is to "provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation and, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified". Each management plan therefore seeks to balance the protection of natural resources with the provision of recreational opportunities relevant to the needs of the local and wider community.

This plan, once approved by the Community Board will have the status of a Council policy and does not constitute a Management Plan under the Reserves Act.

Management plans are a useful tool that provide Council with a framework for the park's use and management. This is achieved through a series of clear objectives and policies. These are designed to be clear and readily implemented while retaining the flexibility to accommodate matters as they arise, within the general framework. The process of preparing a management plan provides the public with opportunities to have input which establishes a common understanding of how the park will be managed, and ensures decisions take into account the broader public interest.

2.3.1 Management plan preparation process

The preparation of a management plan for Victoria Park has been undertaken according to the process outlined in Section 41(5 and 6) of the Reserves Act. This process is as follows:

1. The Western Bay Community Board endorses decision to prepare a management plan for the park;
2. Public notification of intention to prepare a draft management plan, submissions requested (4 week period);
3. Preparation of draft management plan, incorporating issues identified from research, submissions and consultation;
4. Draft management plan received by the Western Bays Community Board and endorsed for public notification;
5. Public notification of draft management plan, submissions requested (8 week period);
6. Western Bays Community Board hearing of submissions and adoption of the plan;
7. Modifications made to draft management plan resulting from submissions and hearing resolutions;
8. Public notification of the plan's availability;
9. Management plan kept under continuous review by Council, so that it can be adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge.

2.4 Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 sets up a framework for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Council must work towards achieving the purpose of the Act when exercising powers and functions under the Act, (for example when preparing district plans and making decisions on resource consents).

2.5 Auckland City District Plan - Central Area Section – Operative 2004

Under the District Plan - Central Area Section – Operative 2004, Victoria Park is zoned Public Open Space 1 in Strategic Management Area 3 (Western Strategic Management Area) and is subject to 'Concept Plan – Victoria Park' (14.2A.4). Emphasis is on use of the open space for outdoor recreation but provision is made for those buildings and



Campbell Free kindergarten building
(Category B heritage item).

structures necessary for the management, use and enjoyment of the area.

Victoria Park contains significant heritage features including vegetation, objects, sites and a building. Their importance is recognised by their scheduling in the District Plan.

The 65 London Plane trees lining the main pathway have a Category A classification, which means they have outstanding natural beauty, scientific or historical significance well beyond their immediate environs. The demolition of Category A items is a prohibited activity.

The Campbell Free Kindergarten building has a Category B classification which, although less significant than Category A, means it should not be wilfully removed, damaged or altered in a significant way unless there is a compelling reason.

Near the intersection of Victoria Street West and Halsey Street is a significant Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), also classified as a Category B item.

The park is a scheduled Maori Heritage Site containing two waahi tapu. Site A: Wai Kokota was a shellfish gathering area, and Site B: Te Too was a headland canoe hauling area below the site of a significant event. Any proposed activities in these areas are subject to the same controls as scheduled archaeological sites and features.

3.0 Council framework

3.1 Focus on the Future (2004-2014)

In 2004 Auckland City's Strategic Plan was finalised. This plan sets out the community vision for the City to the year 2020. The community vision and the strategic plan form a goal – that, in 2020, Auckland will be the First City of the Pacific. 'Focus on the Future' provides a review of the Vision and Strategic Plan, with milestones for Auckland City to achieve over the next 10 years highlighted. The community vision is supported by a set of guiding principles and values. These guide the Council's decision making and actions, and support a set of prioritised outcomes that Aucklanders want for their City. Identified outcomes that are of particular relevance to Victoria Park include: celebrating and recognising diversity, unique and valued natural environment, strong and healthy communities, and urban intensification.

The Strategic Plan forms the 'umbrella' document under which strategies, policies, guidelines and management plans are prepared. A number of these documents contain relevant objectives and policies to be followed in the preparation of individual management plans. These documents are as follows:

3.2 Recreation Precincts Strategy (1999)

Victoria Park has been identified as a Recreation Precinct. Recreation Precincts are groupings of recreational facilities which offer a wide variety of both casual and

organised activities for a diverse range of interests and age groups within the community. This strategy clarifies the Recreation Precinct concept and sets out goals, objectives and an implementation strategy for their development.

3.3 Auckland's CBD into the Future Strategy (2004)

This strategy looks at setting in place a vision and framework for reshaping and revitalising Auckland's central business area as the prosperous and vital heart of the city. The strategy states that Auckland's CBD will be:

- recognised as one of the world's premier business locations
- a high quality urban environment
- the most popular destination for Aucklanders and visitors to the region
- a world-class centre for education, research and development
- a place that feels like the heart and expresses the soul of Auckland.

3.4 Victoria Quarter Plan

The objective for this plan is to set a direction for the 'quarter' (the area of the Central Area bounded by Hobson, Union and Fanshawe Streets, and including Victoria Park) for the next 10-20 years. The Quarter Plan is seeking to achieve a high quality urban environment with quality open spaces and streetscapes, diversity in residential development and quality social and community infrastructure. It is anticipated the 'Victoria Quarter' work will build on the continuation of existing creative and technological industry trends, combined with residential development.

3.5 CBD Open Space Plan

This is currently being prepared and will provide strategic direction for the linkage and development of the open space network in the CBD. This project looks at such things as how existing open spaces work, their design, how they will need to function in the future, and the provision of such spaces.

3.6 CBD Public Activities Strategy

This strategy will look at the provision of events throughout the CBD. It will look to expand the use of the CBD, looking at the type

3.7 Other Guiding Documents

- Park Lighting Policy (2000)
- Weed Management Policy (1999)
- Auckland City Council Consolidated Bylaw (1998)
- Sense of Place (2001)
- Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan (2004/05)
- Skate Auckland – Skate Strategy (2000)
- Draft Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines (2002)
- Leisure Strategy



4.0 History

4.1 Historical context

The Auckland Isthmus has seen a millennium of Maori occupation and use. Tamaki Makaurau or 'Tamaki-the bride sought by a hundred suitors' is the ancestral name for the Auckland Isthmus. Many tribes have flourished here as the volcanic soils provided nutrient-rich material for gardening consistently across the Isthmus. The short distance between the east and west coast was also attractive as resources could be obtained easily from both coasts. Maori had their food production organised into gardening and fishing circuits themselves dictated by soils, fish stocks and the native calendar (maramataka).

By 1740 the Waiohau tribe under their paramount leader, Kiwi Tamaki, held the mana on the central Isthmus. Kiwi had his residence at Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill). The Ngati Whatua tribes had been steadily moving from the far north and were well established in the south Kaipara region after displacing the Kawerau people. However Ngati Whatua coveted Tamaki-Makau-rau and had cause

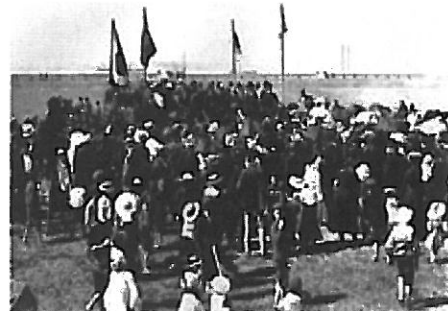


Commercial Bay now Victoria Park, c.1870.

to obtain it after Kiwi killed a number of prominent women while attending a tangi (funeral) in the Kaipara. Under the leadership of Tuperiri the Taou section of Ngati Whatua undertook an intensive campaign against the Waiohau culminating in the death of Kiwi Tamaki near Little Muddy Creek in West Auckland. After further battles on the Isthmus, Tuperiri took up residence at Maungakiekie and the possession of all the lands formerly held by the Waiohau.

The 1820's saw the Auckland Isthmus temporarily deserted as Ngati Whatua and other tribes in wider Tamaki sought refuge in the Waikato, Mahurangi and Waitakere regions from the musket bearing tribes from the north who sought utu (revenge) for past defeats. Tamaki became generally unsafe to reside in during this period as war parties from the north travelling south frequently passed through. However, Ngati Whatua under Te Kawau, with the assistance of Te Wherowhero and their Waikato relatives, returned to the central Isthmus permanently in 1835 as the power of the musket was balanced, which in turn brought peace. Crops were re-established and home fires burned again at the numerous settlements.

On 20 March 1840, Te Kawau and other Ngati Whatua leaders signed the Treaty of Waitangi. Te Kawau actively sought an alliance with the Crown. By such means he hoped to obtain military protection and instruction in the arts of commerce, in return for land for settlement and food and shelter for the early colonists. Accordingly he sent his nephew, Reweti, and others to the Bay of Islands to ask Governor Hobson to come to Tamaki. As the Waitangi Tribunal notes,



The mayor, Mr A. M. Myers, speaking at the opening of Victoria Park, with a crowd of spectators (in the foreground) 20 December, 1905. (Negative No.A4804. Auckland Public Library Photograph Collection.54).

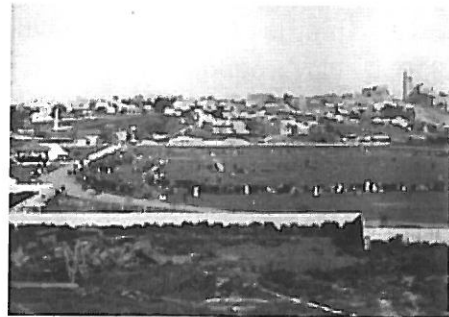
"... a few days after the signing of the Treaty, seven chiefs from Orakei came to the Bay seeking protection against their old enemies the Nga Puhī, and asking the Lieutenant-Governor to take up his residence amongst them. They offered him land if he would live at Tamaki.

Hobson, wishing to find a more central location for his capital, agreed and made an inspection of the area on 23-28 February 1840. As a result George Clark, who held the title "Protector of Aborigines", on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen executed a Deed of Purchase for some 3,000 acres of land from Ngati Whatua. This was a block that ran along the southern part of the Waitemata Harbour from Hobson Bay (Mataharehare), in the east to Cox's Bay (Opou) in the west and inland to the summit of Maungawhau (Mount Eden). In short the land so transferred makes up the modern Auckland suburbs of Parnell, the Central Business District, Ponsonby, Grey Lynn, St Mary's Bay, Herne Bay, Westmere and parts of Newmarket and Mount Eden.

In January 1841 Governor Hobson arrived in Tamaki and promptly repaid the Ngati Whatua delegation's visit to the Bay of Islands by greeting Apihai Te Kawau on the foreshore at Okahu Bay. It is said that over 1,000 Ngati Whatua were assembled there to meet the Governor.

The city of Auckland and its economy quickly developed while the traditional economy of Maori in Auckland that utilised various seasonal and permanent settlements effectively ended. Wai-Ata-Rau ('Reflecting waters'), the ancestral name for Freemans Bay upon which Victoria Park now sits, was in time reclaimed, 1886-1901. On the western headland above Victoria Park stands Te Too (*'the dragging of waka'*) a former fortified Pa. This settlement had traditionally been utilised as an autumn base camp from where shark-fishing trips on to the Waitemata would be made.

Tuna-mau (*'caught eels'*) is the name of the stream that drained into Wai-Ata-Rau between the bases of Franklin Road and Union Street. Wai-kuta (*'river reed'*) was another stream that flowed from the foot of College Hill. Eels were obtained from these streams. Te Koranga (*'the scaffolding'*) is another ancestral name associated with the area located at the bottom of Victoria Street West. It reflects the more recent activities of Maori in the 1840's when fish were dried on scaffold-like structures after expeditions on the Waitemata.



Victoria Park, 1906. (Source: Auckland Star Collection, Pictorial Collection, National Library of New Zealand)

Maori have also had a more recent relationship with the Wai-Ata-Rau area through activities at the now closed Maori Community Centre located on the corner of Halsey and Fanshawe Streets. The building was given to the 'Maori community' in 1947 by the then Prime Minister to be used for social purposes. The Centre served its social function and more as it became the focal meeting point for Auckland Maori following the post world war 'Maori urban drift'. The Centre served as a marae with tangi, church services and Maori Women's Welfare League meetings hosted there. The Crown-owned property is the subject of a number of claims to the Waitangi Tribunal by various Maori groups.

Source: Ngarimu Blair

4.2 Recent History

Timeline of activities at Victoria Park since the reclamation (Adapted from Adam, 2000)

- 1884 Mr J. J. Holland, Mayor of Auckland, moved at a Council meeting, "That in the opinion of the Council it is necessary and expedient for public health and recreation that Freeman's Bay, or 20 acres of it, be obtained as a reserve for the public."
- 1903 50-year lease of land obtained from the Auckland Harbour Board at £500 per annum.
- 1905 20 December: Victoria Prk officially opened by the Mayor Mr A M Myers for the public's use and enjoyment.
- 1906 First Grandstand "Pavilion" built for around £2,000.
- 1907 Park extended east and west along future Fanshawe Street and Beaumont

- Street.
- 1909 Asphalt tennis courts formed (Bush, 1971).
- Auckland Harbour Board grants Auckland Kindergarten an Allotment "bordering on Victoria Park."
- 1910 Campbell Free Kindergarten opens with funds from Sir John Logan Campbell and Lady Campbell.
- 1911 Park extended
- 1918 First bowling green opened. Grandstand requisitioned as a temporary morgue for influenza epidemic.
- 1919 Playground opened by the Mayor J H Gunson featured wading pools, sandpits, a fountain, fishpond and bubble fountain.
- 1930 Croquet lawn added to the park.
- 1937 New bowling green laid down and the hard tennis courts resurfaced. A pavilion was also placed in use for bowlers. This pavilion was originally one of the ticket boxes at the entrance of the Domain Cricket Ground.
- 1939 May 1. New wing added to the Campbell Kindergarten to provide additional accommodation.
- 1944 During the war years the park was occupied by the US Armed Forces and was covered with army huts.
- 1946 Public discussion about future management of the park. Negotiations over Victoria Park with Auckland Harbour Board.
- 1949 November. Council decision to embark on a further transit housing scheme (Western Springs No. 1 and Western Springs No. 2 existed) at Victoria Park. Negotiations took place between the Government and Council and the buildings required for the scheme were given to Council free of cost by the Government. The buildings were removed from the central portion of the Park and 24 units were erected in the north-west corner.
- 1950 June. The Auckland Star reports on a "re-planning scheme for Freeman's Bay" which would see "industry move on to the park" when "other recreation areas, both in the bay and in the outer suburbs, will have been developed". The town planning officer, Mr C. H. Putt, emphasised that Victoria Park was a regional park, providing playing facilities for the city as a whole and not only for the immediate neighbourhood.
- 1956 October. City Engineer to Town Clerk - "I think it was in 1946 that the [Harbour] Board offered the title of Victoria Park to the Council in return for all future reserve contributions. Apparently no finality was reached on this matter".
- 1959 December. The Auckland Workingmen's Bowling Club (now the Victoria Park Bowling Club Inc) occupied land leased to Council from the Auckland Harbour Board on the Beaumont Street frontage.
- 1960 Grafton United Cricket Club moved to the park from Blandford Park in Grafton Gully. The kindergarten moved to Tahuna Street. Building now occupied jointly by Grafton United Cricket Club, Ponsonby Soccer Club and the Pipe Band.
- 1962 Motorway extension extends through park being the first completed section of the inner city transport plan.
- 1964 May. Parks Department "finish first stage of beautifying Fanshawe St. frontage of Victoria Park between the former RSA bowling pavilion and Beaumont St. ..."
- October. Perimeter changes to park by Parks Dept.
- 1971 The International Sculpture Symposium saw the installation of the Auckland

- Centenary Sculpture by Fred Loopstra *Homage to Will* on the northern section of the park.
- 1980 Cricket Club moves out of former kindergarten building.
 - 1989 Auckland City takes ownership of Victoria Park from the Auckland Harbour Board in exchange for two stub roads used for wharf access.
 - 1983 Seventy year old tennis court (vacant since 1981) removed for second bowling green.
 - 1992/93 Former grandstand rebuilt after fire.
 - 1999 December. Skate park opened.
 - 2000 Extension of indoor training area within the Pavilion.
 - 2001 Removal of the 'soil shed' from the corner of Beaumont and Victoria Streets.
 - 2005 Installation of the artificial concrete block cricket pitch.

5.0 Enhancement and development opportunities

5.1 Physical description

Victoria Park is characterised by a simple, formal layout that can be delineated into several distinct character areas. These include:

- A visually dominant ring of mature specimen trees (predominantly London Plane trees) lining a broad pathway

- Central area of grassed sports fields

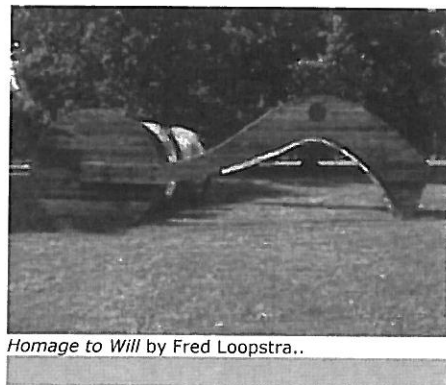
- The cricket pavilion and carpark to the east of the sports fields

- Children's playground area and toilet facility in the southern quadrant adjacent to Victoria Street West. The playground is being upgraded and expanded following site remediation work.

- Several open space/passive recreation areas scattered around the park's western and southern perimeter

- An area of mixed active recreation to the west of the motorway viaduct, and their associated buildings

The Auckland Centenary sculpture by Fred Loopstra, *Homage to Will*, is situated in the northern section of the park.



Homage to Will by Fred Loopstra..

5.2 Geology

Victoria Park is essentially flat with the playing field area sunken slightly creating an amphitheatre effect. The site was formerly known as Commercial Bay. The predominant lithology is construction fill from the Freemans Bay Reclamation carried out between 1886 and 1901. This consists of recompacted clay to gravel-sized materials from various sources, which may in some places include demolition debris (concrete, brick, etc.). The deposits range from very soft to moderately hard and are commonly faced with angular boulders of basalt lava, greywacke, or argillite (Kermode, 1992).

Along the northern boundary of the park are marine sediments of Early Miocene age, referred to as the Waitemata Group (East Coast Bays Formation). This Group underlies most of urban Auckland and consists mainly of flysch sequences (alternating

sandstone and mudstone) which accumulated and built up over greywacke basement rocks in the Waitemata seas which covered Auckland 25 million years ago (Kermode, 1992). Subsequent uplift of the Auckland area exposed these sediments to erosive forces of the sea, carving out the distinctive cliffs and platforms visible along the coastline today.

Provision is made for stormwater storage over the park during large storms. After heavy rainfall the playing fields are often under pools of water. Flood hazard mapping for Freemans Bay illustrates the potential for flooding. Victoria Park is classified as Flood Risk Area A Boundary. The Auckland City Council Consolidated Bylaw (1998) contains rules relating to stormwater management, with the broad objective of the City's stormwater system regulating natural runoff so as to minimise the adverse effects of stormwater on people, property and the environment. Some residual contamination exists beneath the Park from the previous Gas Works. Risk assessment should be carried out in relation to any substantial earthworks within the park. Auckland City's Environmental and Utility Management group must be contacted prior to any intrusive or development works being implemented within the Park.

5.3 Flora and fauna

Being situated on reclaimed land, all vegetation within the park has been established since the land was reclaimed. Since the early 1900's the primary focus of the park, has been organised recreation and, as such, most of the park is maintained in suitable grass cover for sports. The fields have a turf sward predominantly composed of kikuyu, rye and poa annua, giving a dense and smooth playing surface.

Existing planting in the park consists of London Plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) which form a shaded avenue in summer along the path around the periphery of the sportsfields. Other specimen trees are scattered around the park, including Queensland Box (*Lophostemon conferta*) and Puriri (*Vitex lucens*). Dense stands of plane trees are clustered near the Victoria Street West and Halsey Street frontages. Clusters of native tree species occur in the area between the Campbell Free Kindergarten building and children's playground.

Within the park trees higher than 6m or with a girth (measured 500mm above ground) greater than 600mm are protected by the District Plan's "general tree

(Top)
(bottom)



Plane trees lining the main pathway.



Native plantings alongside the now disused Campbell Free Kindergarten building.

protection" rules. The London Plane trees, which are specifically scheduled as a protected heritage item, comprise an important visual element and form a prominent landmark when viewed from the surrounding context. They give the impression of a green oasis in the middle of the built urban environment. Regular monitoring should be carried out to ensure their ongoing health. Replacement planting should be carried out should any specimens deteriorate.

A mix of large-scale, established trees complement the ring of London Plane trees and assist to create a vegetated buffer to the surrounding street and urban environment. From some locations the trees also screen and filter views to the motorway viaduct. While established trees contribute to the amenity of the park, other than the London Plane trees, vegetation does not contribute to the spatial structuring of discrete areas within the park. There is the potential for rationalisation and additional planting utilising a co-ordinated palette of species to define different character areas within the park, mark main entry points and axes and contribute to the park's overall character. In particular, a co-ordinated approach to planting in the north western area of the park would assist to define passive recreation areas. Additional planting associated with redevelopment of the children's play area adjacent to Victoria Street would also assist to define this space. The strategic location of trees in the vicinity of the Southern Motorway Viaduct would assist to integrate this structure with the park. The location of such planting would need to be considered in association with any redevelopment options.

Any future planting along Fanshawe Street frontage should maintain good sight lines into the park and reinforce physical and visual linkages into the park proper. Species should be consistent with those used in other areas of the park

The opportunity also exists to use feature lighting and, in particular, lighting of the trees, to create a striking night-time effect and to enhance the safety of key pedestrian routes.

Few indigenous wildlife species are found in the park. Additional planting would also enhance the general habitat for fauna.

5.4 Recreation and use



Petanque court and shelter.

Victoria Park is a popular multi-functional park that is used all year round both by the local and wider community. It has been identified as a 'recreation precinct' which essentially is a focal point for the community where a range of recreational and community activities are provided which meet the needs of a wide range of interests and age groups.



Children's playground.

Victoria Park has both formal and informal recreational uses, with current management practices allowing public access to sand-carpeted sportsfields. These have been marked out seasonally into one soccer and three rugby league pitches in winter, and for cricket in summer. Bookings are taken for the playing fields and training areas, including touch rugby modules. When not utilised for organised games, the fields are available to the public for casual use. There is a high demand for this informal use and the management of such use poses a problem, particularly when maintenance work on the fields is required.

Two bowling greens are situated in the western section of the park, with the southern green currently disused. Close to the greens and located on the former netball courts is a skate park, which receives heavy usage. The skate park has good visibility from the street. However, continual maintenance is required due to vandalism which largely takes the form of graffiti.

Also located in the western section is a petanque court and shelter. This is open for public use at all times on a first come, first served basis, and bookings can be made by groups wishing to hold a tournament. An annual national tournament is held in the park.

Informal pursuits such as walking, jogging, dog exercising and picnicking are popular. Improved pathways and connections and planting should be considered to enhance these areas. The area at the corner of Beaumont Street and Victoria Street West is particularly well used by workers and locals as a place to sit and have lunch. Provision of furniture and planting should be designed to cater for this use.

The area of park adjoining Fanshawe Street has an informal character and provides an effective buffer between the park and the heavily trafficked street environment. The passive recreation function that this area of the park performs should be maintained. The Homage to Will sculpture should be retained in its current location.

A children's playground fronts onto Victoria Street West. Whilst popular, the collection of play equipment is somewhat disbursed and fragmented by poorly integrated paved surfaces. The potential exists to improve the relationship between the play area, other park features and amenities and the street frontage and to enhance the overall

character and interest of the playground itself. A new playground facility is planned for construction in autumn 2007, following site remediation works.

There is a high demand for temporary events in the park, with regular requests received by the Council. Given the high level of development in the areas surrounding Victoria Park some uses may need to be reconsidered in order to meet the demands of a growing population.

With less on-site private open space provided in higher density living environments as in the intensifying Freemans Bay area, a greater demand is placed on available public open space. With a potential future residential component of the Western Reclamation redevelopment immediately to the north of the park, residential development immediately to the west (former gasworks site) and other potential residential intensification, the importance of fulfilling this passive recreation role is likely to continue to increase.

The multi-functional nature of the park is an important attribute and is in line with the parks recognition as a recreation precinct. The type and location of activities offered in the park should be carefully managed to ensure fair and equitable allocation of sports facilities, to avoid conflict between users seeking different recreation experiences and to protect the open space character of the park. The existing areas of the park available for passive recreation should be protected and enhanced. In general the park has reached its capacity at present for the provision of differing sports activities without compromising its passive recreational values.

5.5 Buildings, facilities and structures

There are a number of buildings located in the park occupied by various user groups. The largest of these is the pavilion which is owned by the Victoria Park Sports and Cultural Trust. It provides facilities and serves as an activity focal point for users of the playing fields. The City Newton Sports Club leases and occupies a building and carpark fronting Beaumont Street. The Victoria Park Bowling Club leases a building further to the south and also accessed from Beaumont Street. The collection of buildings, parking areas and fencing, presents a frontage to Beaumont Street of relatively low amenity.

The Campbell Free Kindergarten, one of Auckland's first kindergartens, is located adjacent to the



Toilets fronting Victoria Street West.



Caretakers residence at Halsey Street Fanshawe Street corner.

Victoria Street West frontage. Designed by Charles Le Neve Arnold, this buildings significance lies in its connection with the Free Kindergarten Movement in Auckland through the patronage of Sir John Logan Campbell, and its design as an early purpose-built kindergarten. The building is currently vacant and is in a poor state of repair. Although the basic form of the building remains intact a considerable quantity of the original finishes have been removed or damaged. The building should be retained, preferably in its current location, restored and an alternative use(s) sought. Should the Southern Motorway viaduct be extended in close proximity to the building, the building may need to be shifted elsewhere in the park, preferably in its present alignment with Victoria Street West.

The original Caretaker's House is located in the northeastern corner of the park and is currently leased as a private residence. The leased area consists of the two storey house and a garage with a car port. Surrounded by dense vegetation the building currently has little relationship to other activities and areas of the park. Given its strategic and prominent location at a busy intersection and important entry point to the park, options should be explored for converting the building to a different use(s).

There are three sets of public toilets in the park:

- In the grandstand building
- Adjacent to the skate park
- Adjacent to the playground fronting Victoria Street West.

Furniture in the park is varied in age, design and quality. While the collection of picnic tables, seating and litter bins, etc, functionally meet the needs of park users, they contribute little to the overall character of the park. A co-ordinated range of furniture of a consistent palette of materials, colours and design elements should be developed. Existing furniture should be assessed for removal, replacement or additions as required. The design and location of furniture should complement the user's experience of the park environment and improve the park's amenity. At present a low timber post and rail fence is located around the perimeter of the park. An alternative, more elegant boundary treatment that complements the park and furniture should be considered.

Park lighting is currently limited to lighting of the sports fields. Additional perimeter lighting has the potential to improve the safety of the surrounding street environment, increase use of the park (for example running at the perimeter of the track in winter) and to contribute to the character and visual prominence of the park. In particular, creative lighting and feature lighting of trees could further contribute to the night character of the park.

The Fred Loopstra *Homage to Will* sculpture, constructed during the 1971 International Sculpture Symposium, is located in the northern section of the park. The

opportunity exists to complement this sculpture with additional art that contributes to the character of the park and tells stories about the park's past. Additional sculpture may also extend the creative opportunities for children's play in the park.

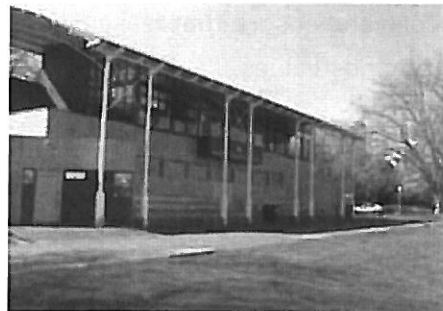
The skate facility is a relatively recent feature of the western part of the park. Some components have yet to be constructed. Ongoing maintenance, graffiti and rubbish removal is required.

When considering the provision of buildings and facilities in Victoria Park, it is important to assess their necessity to be located within the park and to ensure they are required for the activities provided. In general, maximum utilisation and multiple use should be made of existing buildings and facilities and no new buildings provided or expansions undertaken unless essential. The scale and design of additional buildings or redevelopment should complement and preserve the character of the park. The corner of Beaumont and Victoria Streets in particular is an important visual link into the park and as such the open space character should not be compromised by further built structures.

5.6 Leases and licenses

Victoria Park has a number of leases to sports groups. These are compatible with the primary function of the park as an organised recreation facility.

The Victoria Park Sports and Cultural Trust comprises the Grafton United Cricket Club, the American Airlines Pipe Band Inc and Auckland Soccer Referees Association Inc. Ownership of the pavilion building (formerly known as the Victoria Park Grandstand) (effective 20th December, 2000), has been vested in the Trust by Auckland City. The Cricket Club uses the pavilion all year round. In winter this use focuses on training practice, meetings and coaching clinics. The Pipe Band have a dedicated room for year-round practice and storage. The Referees Association uses the facility for training and meeting purposes. Access to the pavilion building is restricted to club members only, with the exception of the toilets and showers which are available for public use when the building is open. The footprint of the building is leased from the Council by the Trust for a 15-year



Grafton United Cricket Pavilion building.



City Newton Sports Club.



Bowling Club.

term, expiring 2015 with a 5 year minus 1 day right of renewal.

The Victoria Park Bowling Club Inc. leases land adjoining Beaumont Street (4140 m²) for two bowling greens and clubrooms. The lease term is 15 years expiring December 2011. The greens have experienced decreasing use. The on-going use pattern should be monitored and any leased areas which are not being actively used for bowling should be reduced and put back into park.

The New Zealand Petanque Association uses the petanque court and shelter for an annual tournament.

The City Newton Sports Club currently occupies and manages the building and adjacent carpark fronting Beaumont Street adjacent to the Southern Motorway viaduct, under the terms of an expired lease that was drawn up in 1984 and expired in 1987.

The fields are allocated to respective Codes through the sports park booking system. When not in use by the clubs the fields are available to the public. It is important to retain the maximum amount of open space for use and enjoyment by the general public and ensure that leases do not significantly restrict access and use, or diminish the park's values.

The use and provision of facilities by multiple groups is consistent with the Council's recreation precinct strategy for Victoria Park.

A "Caretaker's House" is located in the northeastern corner of the park. The two-storey house is currently rented as a dwelling. Dense planting around the house isolates it from other areas of the park. This private use is somewhat of an anomaly. Given the building's potentially prominent location adjacent to a busy intersection, alternative uses which contribute to the amenity of the Park should be considered for this for both the house. Should an alternative use not be identified the house and out buildings should be removed and the land returned to the park. In conjunction with the establishment of an alternative use, planting around the house should be considerably thinned to improve sightlines into the park.

5.7 Access and circulation

5.7.1 Pedestrian access and linkages

Victoria Park is strategically located in the context of St Mary's Bay, Freemans Bay, the Western Reclamation and the Viaduct Harbour. Current pedestrian linkages between these areas are fragmented and of generally poor amenity. The park is surrounded on all four sides by heavily trafficked roadways, which act as a barrier to pedestrian movement, isolating the park. These streets have a low pedestrian amenity and poor provision is made for pedestrians crossing these roads.

The potential exists to improve the physical, visual and safety of key access points and connections to the park as part of a wider pedestrian network. In particular the following connections should be improved:

- the connection from the walking track of Jacob's Ladder across Beaumont Street, as part of an extended walkway along the toe of the escarpment to Point Erin
- the pedestrian access across the Beaumont Street/Fanshawe Street intersection
- the pedestrian access across the Victoria Street West/College Hill intersection
- the pedestrian link across Victoria Street West to the Victoria Park market
- the pedestrian access across the Halsey Street/Fanshawe Street intersection.

The relationship and connections to the future potential mixed use node of the Western Reclamation also requires consideration. This area will eventually form an extension to the Viaduct Harbour and continuous pedestrian connections of high amenity are important to the successful integration of these urban precincts.

The park is also accessed by two main bus stops located along Fanshawe Street and Victoria Street West, bringing people into the central area. Access from the bus stops to the park should be reviewed.

From the surrounding street footpaths that adjoin the park pedestrian access is largely unhindered with entry possible on all sides. The park has a relatively simple and effective internal pathway system structured around a pathway which encircles the perimeter of the sportsfields. This is heavily used by walkers and joggers. A formal accessway leads from the corner of Victoria Street West and Halsey Street to this pathway. The pathways consist of an asphalt and concrete composite which should be upgraded to a material that protects the health of specimen trees within the park while providing easy access.

Direct pedestrian access should be provided from Fanshawe Street to the internal pedestrian path. In particular, good linkages should be provided in the vicinity of the intersection with Beaumont Street, the intersection with Halsey Street and to the Pavilion and associated carpark.

Conflicts exist where sections of the perimeter pathway are used for vehicular access to two carparks from Halsey Street adjacent to the Fanshawe Street intersection, and Beaumont Street between the bowling club and skate park. Pedestrian priority on these vehicular access points should be clearly established.

Other than improving the street connections as outlined above, the provision of internal pathways should be limited.

5.7.2 Vehicle access and car parking

Vehicle access into the park can be attained directly from Beaumont Street adjacent to the skate park, which leads to parking beside the facility and beneath the viaduct adjacent to the former Kindergarten building. Another carpark is located off Beaumont Street beneath the viaduct adjacent to the City Newton Sports Club. This area is currently only available to the club and is not available for general public use. The use of this car park has been reviewed and timed parking should be introduced to discourage commuters from using the car park for all day parking.

Vehicles can also access the park via a driveway from Halsey Street to a free 120-minute car park for approximately 20 cars, which services the pavilion. This is intended for sports park users when the fields are in use. While all parking within the park is designed to cater for short-term users of the park, given its location in close proximity to the CBD, the parking areas are frequently used for day parking by commuters. Although measures have been implemented to limit this, it is an ongoing issue. In order to maximise the benefits of a limited resource to service the use of the park, careful management of parking within the park to only service the requirements of the park is required.

When considering the future provision of car parking it is vital to ensure that vehicles do not dominate or diminish the open space qualities of the park and that the maximum amount of open space is retained for the enjoyment of park users. Parking demand within the park should be regularly monitored. Parking that does not effectively service the park should be removed. Should existing parking arrangements become inadequate, a redesign should be investigated to optimise parking space. This includes the road safety aspect with regard to access to and from the car parks and provision for pedestrians. Expansion should only be considered if investigations show that this is required and then it should be undertaken in a manner sensitive to the park environment and user safety.

There may be the potential to rationalise existing parking and vehicular accessways through the park.

5.7.3 State Highway 1, Victoria Park viaduct

State Highway 1, the southern motorway, traverses the park on a north-south axis at the western end of the park on a viaduct approximately 8m above the park. The



Parking beneath the viaduct overpass. Campbell Free kindergarten to the left.



Pedestrian entrance off the Victoria Street West and Halsey Street intersection.

viaduct forms part of a strategically important transport network but the structure visually and physically dissects the park into two distinct areas.

The utilitarian nature of the viaduct and its activities compromises the open space qualities of the park and creates an area of dead space under and in the viaducts vicinity. This negatively impacts on both the amenity and recreational use of the park in its current configuration. Regular maintenance of the viaduct also affect the operation and visual appearance of the park.

Transit NZ who manage and operate the state highway network through New Zealand have identified that improvements to the motorway are required through Victoria Park, involving widening the motorway to six traffic lanes. The current timeframe for the start of construction of the improvements is 2009/10 and construction would take between 2-4 years (as identified in Transit NZ draft 10 Year State Highway Plan (2004/05 - 2013/14)).

Several options have been investigated and consulted on by Transit NZ, including tunnelling under the park, widening the viaduct and constructing a new viaduct. Once selected, the preferred option for the motorway improvements will need to proceed through the Resource Management Act (1991) procedures.

All options will impact on existing vegetation in the park, in particular the scheduled London Plane trees, and existing cultural and heritage sites such as iwi historic sites and the Campbell Free Kindergarten building. Transit NZ is also required by Auckland City to take potential human health issues into account regarding excavation through historically contaminated soil from the former Beaumont St Gas Works.

Options to mitigate the effect on these sites should be identified and worked through prior to the implementation of the motorway upgrade.

Tunnelling

Proposals to tunnel the motorway involve providing a northbound traffic tunnel only or providing a tunnel for the both northbound and southbound traffic. Tunnelling in both directions would be of considerable benefit to the park and users, remediating the existing detrimental effects the viaduct has on the park's amenity and connecting the eastern and western sides of the park . Tunnelling would present a number of challenges and may, itself, result in adverse effects on the environment and heritage of the park.

Widen or New Viaduct

Should the motorway remain in a viaduct configuration, measures should be taken to mitigate adverse effects. If the viaduct is widened the dominance and severing effect will be substantially increased. Assuming the structure is retained Council would expect consideration should be given to mitigating adverse effects and, in particular, reducing the utilitarian nature of the structure, mitigating potential impacts on human health (notably dust emissions created by excavation through contaminated soil), reducing noise effects, mitigating the effects of stormwater runoff from the structure, protecting against objects falling from the structure and providing additional amenities to offset the reduced space available for recreation.

Options should be explored to create design features of the support columns and explore a means of activating the space under the viaduct to encourage integration between the eastern and western side of the park.



View under Southern Motorway viaduct.

5.8 Signage and interpretation

The park is identified by signage at several locations along the main road frontages to the park. Other signage includes two commemorative monuments; a plinth placed in the early 1990's attesting to the presence of a US forces military camp during World War II (1944) in the northern section of the park, a plinth located in the South East corner and at the corner of Halsey and Fanshawe Streets a plaque outside of the park fence records the death of council contractors in sewers under the street. Further signage marks the entrances to car parks and parking limitations and identifies the sports facilities. Most signage has been completed to Council's current signage standards.

Opportunities exist to improve signage within the park:

- Signage to indicate linkages with nearby reserves and open space, particularly Jacob's ladder and other walkways

- Interpretation signage at appropriate locations to identify historical and natural features on or visible from the park, including connections with the Waitemata



New signage within the park.



Heritage Plaque adjacent to Halsey Street entrance consistent with those used throughout the City.

Harbour. This would be a useful educational tool and help to foster an appreciation of the surrounds. Interpretative material could be placed along future walkways.

Commercial signage is controlled by provisions in the Council's Consolidated Bylaw and lease agreements. Such signage would diminish the amenity of the park and is not appropriate.

5.9 Adjoining land use

Victoria Park is the only area for active recreation in the Central Area of the City. The areas surrounding the Park contain a mix of light industrial, residential and commercial activities. To the north is the area known as the Western Reclamation, which is within Strategic Management Area 2 (Harbour Edge SMA) of the District Plan – central area section. The Western Reclamation precinct currently provides for a range of marine-related activities. Options are being explored for the focus of this area to change to create a vibrant mixed use, maritime/commercial/residential neighbourhood that complements redevelopment of the Viaduct Harbour area. The relationship and connections of the park to this precinct will be very important and should be provided for.

Victoria Park Market is located immediately to the south of the park and contains a number of buildings that are scheduled heritage items. The markets form part of the Victoria Park Market Precinct, which contains a rich mix of retail, commercial and residential activities organised around a network of narrow streets. The predominantly residential and commercial area of Freemans Bay to the west of the park has experienced considerable intensification of residential activity in recent times.

A positive relationship between the private realm surrounding the park and the park itself should be encouraged. Any proposals to redevelop the market should seek to link Victoria Park Market site and the neighbouring precinct with the park at street level. Pedestrian linkages should be encouraged in the consideration of any major site redevelopments. Private land owners and Council should work together to ensure an appropriate interface. Future urban developments in the vicinity should not rely on Victoria Park to meet their open space demands. Open space in this area is already limited and under increasing pressure. Retaining viewshafts into the park should be taken into account when considering boundary planting.

5.10 Utilities

A major stormwater line traverses the western end of the park in a north-south direction. Any changes to the Southern Motorway configuration will require consideration of this facility. The Freemans Bay Catchment Management Plan demonstrates that stormwater ponds on and around Victoria Park in the 1:10 year rainfall event and greater events, i.e. there is a flood hazard.

New network utilities (i.e. not including the existing stormwater or gas related infrastructure or replacements of such infrastructure) should not be located within the park unless required for health and safety purposes or for servicing park facilities.

An anode ground bed is also located under Victoria Park. This is required for the prevention of corrosion of Auckland's steel gas mains. Replacement of the anode ground bed is required from time to time (usually every 10-20 years). This infrastructure should be located to cause minimal disruption to the operation of the park and features including notable trees and their root systems.

6.0 Management objectives and policies

Vision - To protect and enhance the open space and unique qualities of Victoria Park while providing for a variety of recreational opportunities.

6.1 Kaupapa Whaanui

Objective 1

To recognise, protect and, as appropriate, promote the Maori cultural values of Victoria Park and to work in partnership so that Iwi can effectively exercise kaitiakitanga and cultural practices.

Explanation

Working in partnership with Iwi in the management of the environment demonstrates Council's commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Provision for cultural practices will be indicated through development of programmes designed in consultation with tangata whenua or by tangata whenua to ensure the protection and control of tribal interests.

Policies

- 1.1 By recognising and providing for the mauri of any site or place of significance associated with the park.
- 1.2 To work in partnership with tangata whenua to guide the design and overall management of the park.

6.2 Heritage

Objective 2

To recognise and protect the heritage and cultural values and features of Victoria Park.

Explanation

The heritage values of Victoria Park derive mainly from its service to the community and as a place of recreation in the Central and Freemans Bay Area with a number of

heritage features reflecting past uses of the park. As such, features of historical significance should be protected and interpretation provided.

Because the park is located on reclaimed land, it is unlikely that there is an in-situ archaeological site or archaeological material present under the park. If, during the course of major earthworks on the park, any cultural historic material is found, the Historic Places Trust, and an archaeologist should be contacted to provide expert advice before work continues. From an archaeological perspective the main interest is in the subsurface stratigraphy due to the land being created through reclamation (1886-1901). Fill used during the reclamation is likely to contain a large assortment and variety of artefactual material dating to this period, in which case it is protected under the Historic Places Act 1993.

Policies

- 2.1 By recognising the value of Victoria Park in the wider context as one of the City's oldest parks.
- 2.2 By conserving and protecting sites of historical and cultural significance.
- 2.3 By exploring adaptive re-use options for the Campbell Free Kindergarten, and 'Caretaker's House' buildings.
- 2.4 By ensuring that, should archaeological evidence be uncovered, all work within the immediate vicinity of the site is ceased, and to recommence only once approval is gained from local iwi and the Historic Places Trust.
- 2.5 By replacing asphalt paths within the dripline of scheduled London Plane trees with an alternative surface that better protects the health of the trees
- 2.6 By providing interpretation material at appropriate locations in consultation with heritage personnel or local iwi.

6.3 Flora and fauna

Objective 3

To protect and enhance elements of the existing vegetative pattern that contribute to Victoria Park's amenity and structure.

Explanation

Victoria Park, as reclaimed land, has no natural vegetation condition. However, the grassed areas for organised recreation and the collection of established, large-scale specimen trees, in particular, the avenue of London Plane trees around the main pathway's periphery, contribute to the park's distinct character. Opportunities exist to enhance the visual amenity, character and structure of the park through the planting of appropriate species. As one of the only substantial green spaces in the Central Area district, the special qualities of the park should be protected and enhanced.

Policies

- 3.1 By protecting and enhancing the distinct landscape character attributes of the

park, including the avenue of London Plane trees and other significant specimen trees.

- 3.2 By regularly monitoring the health of the scheduled London Plane trees and, as required, carry out replacement planting.
- 3.3 By preserving the central grassed area for organised recreation.
- 3.4 By complementing the established vegetative character of the park with additional tree planting to denote key entry points to the park, frame views into the Park and screen views to inappropriate built elements.
- 3.5 By rationalising existing planting to ensure sight lines into the park from surrounding streets and utilise selective planting to define different character areas.
- 3.6 By selectively using feature lighting of notable vegetation to contribute to the amenity and character of the park and adjacent streetscape.
- 3.7 By continuing to remove and control weed species using methods consistent with the Weed Management Policy, causing least harm to the surrounding natural environment.

6.4 Recreation and use

Objective 4

To provide for a variety of recreational pursuits to the extent that is compatible with the landscape, cultural and natural values of Victoria Park.

Explanation

Victoria Park provides for a range of organised recreation activities, with provision for passive and informal activities. These activities need to be carefully balanced and managed to address increasing user demand, to prevent potential conflicts of use and to ensure the park's limited natural resources and values are protected.

Policies

- 4.1 By continuing to provide for a range of active recreation opportunities in the park, and in a manner that considers the needs and values of all users.
- 4.2 By actively managing the passive and informal use of playing fields so as not to compromise their use for organised recreation.
- 4.3 By providing for walking and jogging as a recreational pursuit.
- 4.4 By consolidating and upgrading the playground in its current location, following remediation of the playground area and surrounding treeline.
- 4.5 By removing the southern disused bowling green and provide for passive recreation or tennis court facilities in this area.
- 4.6 By protecting and enhancing the opportunities for passive recreation within the park.
- 4.7 By providing and maintaining a minimum of facilities such as toilets and changing rooms for the health, safety and convenience of recreational users.
- 4.8 By maintaining the flexibility to cater for future recreational activities, trends and demands on the sportsfields.
- 4.9 By ensuring that any future uses have a legitimate need to be located in the park. Any future uses must adequately demonstrate that it cannot be provided for elsewhere in the city and demonstrate that it is compatible with the character of the park and does not compromise active and passive recreational

opportunities in the park.

4.10 By providing for short-term events in the park where these do not compromise its active and passive recreational opportunities.

A short term event in the context of Victoria Park is defined as:

Public performances, parades, sporting events, exhibitions, film shoots, markets, festivals and activities of a similar character provided that the activities and associated structures do not occupy the park for more than 5 days, inclusive of time required for the establishment and removal of all structures and activities associated with the activity.

6.5 Leases and licenses

Objective 5

To manage all present and future leases and licences in terms of the Local Government Act 1974, Council's current leasing and licensing policy, and in accordance with the objectives and policies of this management plan.

Explanation

Victoria Park is an important community resource, providing essential recreation facilities for sports groups. It is important to ensure that the provision of leases and licences does not restrict public use or interfere with the enjoyment of the park by other users. Exclusive use or activities that lead to the development of additional facilities and impact on the natural qualities of the park should be carefully assessed.

Policies

5.1 By allowing the existing leases of the Victoria Park Sports and Cultural Trust, City Newton Sports Club and the Victoria Park Bowling Club Inc. to continue, at Council's discretion and subject to regular monitoring, to ensure the relevant objectives and policies are met and the clubs remain viable.

5.2 By reviewing the lease agreement for the Caretaker's House.

5.3 By ensuring that licences and permits entered into comply with the 'Private Use of Public Open Space Policy' of Council and do not significantly limit the ability of the public to enjoy the park.

5.4 By ensuring that any future leases entered into are directly related to the use of the park.

5.5 By ensuring no carparking areas are included in any lease agreements.

5.6 By ensuring that licenses and permits approved by the Council for special events meet the rules for temporary activities in the Auckland City District Plan – Central Area Section – Operative 2004 and the following assessment criteria:

The need to protect the recreation qualities of the park and its natural, historic and landscape values

Compatibility of the proposed activity with other activities within the park and surrounding area in terms of the scale and nature of the proposal, the number of people involved, traffic generation, timing of the activities and support facilities required

The contribution to the local and wider community and to the

enhancement of public appreciation of the park

The need for the particular activity to be accommodated within the park when evaluated against opportunities provided at other city reserves, on private land or within the commercial sector

The requirement for events and licences to comply with conditions set by Council outside of this management plan and the requirements of external agencies.

6.6 Access and linkages

Objective 6

To provide safe public access to and within Victoria Park and pedestrian linkages beyond the park without compromising the park's landscape values.

Explanation

Opportunities exist to improve the quality of pedestrian linkages with surrounding areas and key pedestrian routes. Pedestrian access to and throughout Victoria Park should be enhanced in a manner consistent with the park's character.

With increasing pressure on open spaces, particularly in the Central Area, extra demand for car parking is created. Expansion of parking areas consumes valuable open space and has the potential to adversely impact on the park's open space values. Expansion of parking areas and vehicle access routes through the park is not encouraged. The potential to rationalise and reduce parking areas within the park should be explored. The park is well served by public transport. A comprehensive traffic review should be carried out in conjunction with consideration of pedestrian movement and amenity.

Whilst the Southern Motorway Viaduct forms part of a strategically important regional transport network, it is an intrusive element that currently severs the park and diminishes its open space values and amenity. Options exist to tunnel or trench this roading facility, and whilst this would present a number of challenges and may result in adverse effects on the environment, it would significantly improve the park's amenity values. This option should be actively pursued with Transit. Should the road remain in the form of a viaduct and be expanded, measures should be taken to mitigate its adverse effects.

Policies

- 6.1 By providing an efficient and safe pedestrian, jogging, cycle and vehicular access network within Victoria Park for a variety of users.
- 6.2 By enhancing pedestrian access and circulation within the park while ensuring that cultural and landscape values are protected. In particular, the perimeter pathway should be upgraded and pedestrian priority established over vehicular accessways.
- 6.3 By improving pedestrian linkages between the park and surrounding areas as part

of a continuous and integrated walkway network. In particular, include the park in an improved network connecting to the Victoria Park Markets, Point Erin, St Mary's Bay, the Western Reclamation and the Viaduct Harbour.

- 6.4 By improving pedestrian connections from the surrounding road network to the park's internal pedestrian network.
- 6.6 By redesigning the car parking areas to improve their capacity and functionality if present facilities prove inadequate, with priority given to concepts protecting the open space environment.
- 6.7 By supporting and encouraging the use of public transport, bicycles and walking as alternatives to using private vehicles to get to and from the park.
- 6.8 By encouraging and actively promoting the reconfiguration of the Southern Motorway as a tunnel under the park.
- 6.9 Should the Southern Motorway remain on an elevated viaduct structure, seek to mitigate the adverse effects of this on the park by ensuring that the structure:
 - Contributes to the character of the park through the innovative design and treatment of the built structure
 - Provides for compatible activities under and in the vicinity of the viaduct
 - Discourages antisocial behaviour under and in the vicinity of the viaduct
 - Reduces the noise effects experienced within the park
 - Provides for the relocation and upgrading of the Campbell Free Kindergarten.

6.7 Buildings, facilities and structures

Objective 7

To ensure that only those buildings, facilities and structures essential for the comfort and safety of users are sited within Victoria Park and that these structures are designed and located in harmony with the natural features and attractions of the park.

Explanation

Well-designed, sited and integrated buildings and facilities can enhance public use and enjoyment of a park and complement its character and aesthetic values. While facilities are required for use and enjoyment by park users, it is important to retain the qualities associated with valuable open space and informal areas. Additional buildings and facilities will generally not be permitted unless they are in the public interest, improve the functioning of the park and complement its values.

Policies

- 7.1 By ensuring that all existing buildings and facilities are maintained to a high standard.
- 7.2 By reviewing the necessity for and location of buildings within the park.
- 7.3 By ensuring any new buildings, facilities or structures proposed for location in Victoria Park, or alterations to existing buildings, meet with the following criteria:
 - Existing buildings and facilities are fully utilised and are unable to accommodate additional uses
 - Is directly related to recreational opportunities provided for in the park and

cannot be accommodated more appropriately elsewhere

Needs to be located within the park

Contributes to the quality of the experience within the park

Will not significantly compromise the use of the park for recreation purposes

Has minimal impact(s) on the visual integrity, cultural and natural landscape values of the park

The particular design is appropriate for the site and consistent with the character of the park

Meets the relevant District Plan requirements.

7.4 By determining and securing an alternative use for the Campbell Free Kindergarten and Caretaker's House and upgrade these buildings in accordance with the determined use and heritage values.

7.5 By utilising perimeter and feature lighting of trees to improve safety of the street environment and contribute to the character and visual prominence of the park.

7.6 By exploring the opportunity to locate additional art and sculpture reflecting the parks important characteristics including heritage, in the park particularly in relation to the perimeter path and at key access points.

6.8 Site furniture and signage

Objective 8

To adopt a unified approach to the design, selection and placement of all furniture and signage and ensure they contribute to the overall character of Victoria Park.

Explanation

Appropriately sited furniture and signage can enhance the use and enjoyment of a park. These elements should also complement the recreational experience afforded by the park. A unified approach should be taken to ensure consistency of style, character, quality and suitability of use. Play equipment should be consolidated and redesigned to complement the design intent of park furniture. In order to protect the park's natural character, furniture should be minimised and remain clustered to maintain uninterrupted open space. Additional interpretation signage should be provided with historical information to build awareness of the special attributes of the park and its linkages with surrounding open space in the Central Area.

Policies

8.1 By ensuring the number of signs and items of furniture are sufficient for formal and informal recreation.

8.2 By prohibiting the location of commercial signage in the park.

8.3 By developing and implementing a unified design for park furniture, which complements the park environment.

8.4 By assessing the condition and location of all existing site furniture and signage and remove, replace or supplement as required.

8.5 By establishing a park edge treatment consistent with other park furniture.

8.6 By better identifying the park's linkages with surrounding open space, particularly

with the waterfront, St Mary's Bay and Point Erin.

8.7 By implementing on-site interpretation material and signage at appropriate locations.

6.9 Adjoining land use

Objective 9

To acknowledge surrounding land use patterns and encourage a positive interface between Victoria Park and the surrounding private realm.

Explanation

A positive relationship between private site development and the park has the opportunity to contribute to the amenity of both the park and the surrounding private realm. Potential interface conflicts should be carefully managed.

Policies

- 9.1 By recognising the role of Victoria Park as a gateway park to the Central Area.
- 9.2 By encouraging compatibility of adjoining land use and park activities.
- 9.3 By recognising the current high demand placed on the park in the consideration of future open space requirements for surrounding areas.
- 9.4 By recognising the strategic importance of the park as an open space resource, when considering the future urban development of the Western Reclamation.
- 9.5 By encouraging a built form on surrounding sites that positively addresses the park.
- 9.6 By enhancing viewshafts into the park from surrounding neighbourhoods.

6.10 Services and utilities

Objective 10

To ensure that only those *new* services and network utilities (*i.e. excluding the existing gas or stormwater related infrastructure or replacement of such infrastructure*) that are essential to the health and safety of park users or contribute to the functioning and amenity *of* Victoria Park are located within *it*.

Explanation

While a number of services are required to service the facilities provided on the park, the use of the park to accommodate network utilities and other services has the potential to diminish the amenity of the park and impose restriction on its future use and development. Constraints imposed by remedial works carried out beneath treelines and within the playground area are detailed within the long term Management and Monitoring Plan and must be adhered to.

Policies

- 10.1 By recognising the flood hazard which exists in relation to the park and to maintain or improve stormwater provisions that traverses the park in any redevelopment in the vicinity.
- 10.2 By continuing to protect other existing network utility infrastructure (such as gas related anode ground beds) located in the park, ensuring that they can be maintained, upgraded and replaced as necessary whilst protecting the amenity of the park.
- 10.3 By recognising that remedial measures beneath treelines and the playground area will be implemented where needed, must be maintained and must not be compromised by future development or intrusive works.
- 10.4 By examining and reviewing future services and utilities and critically assess their requirement to be sited on the park.

7.0 Implementation

The following sets out the priorities to implement the objectives and policies set out in the Management Plan.

1. Prepare a park planting plan that identifies existing planting to be removed and additional planting required to define passive recreation areas and denote main entry points to park. Planting shall use a restrained palette and shall align with the parks sense of place.
2. Develop a co-ordinated range of furniture against which existing furniture may be assessed for removal, replacement or can be supplemented as required.
3. Consolidate and redesign existing playground.
4. Determine a co-ordinated lighting strategy that complements other park furniture and contributes to the night safety and character of the park.
5. Ensure the current high demand placed on the park is recognised in the consideration of future open space requirements for surrounding areas.
6. Advocate for an alternative configuration/treatment of the Southern Motorway as a tunnel/trench through the park.
7. Ensure consideration is given to the role of the park in its context, in the development of concepts for the Western Reclamation area.
8. To undertake a comprehensive review of existing pedestrian connections to the park and internal circulation (both vehicular and pedestrian) and parking space and carry out necessary works.
9. Determine and secure alternative uses for the Campbell Free Kindergarten and Caretaker's House and carry out necessary restoration works.

Implementation of the above will require consideration of the Central Area Section of the District Plan, existing lease agreements and existing management and maintenance practices.

The maintenance of Victoria Park is carried out by Council contractors working to specifications that cover matters such as weeding, pest control, litter control, path maintenance, mulching, grass mowing etc.

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Figure 1 Location of Victoria Park

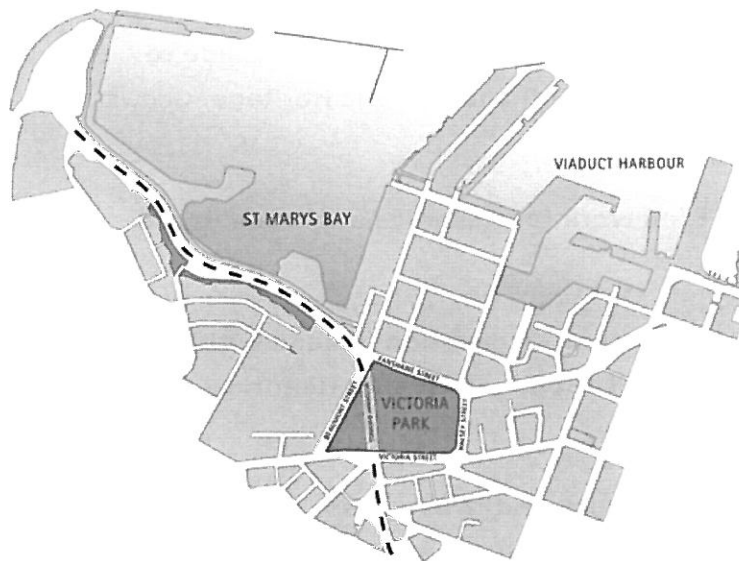
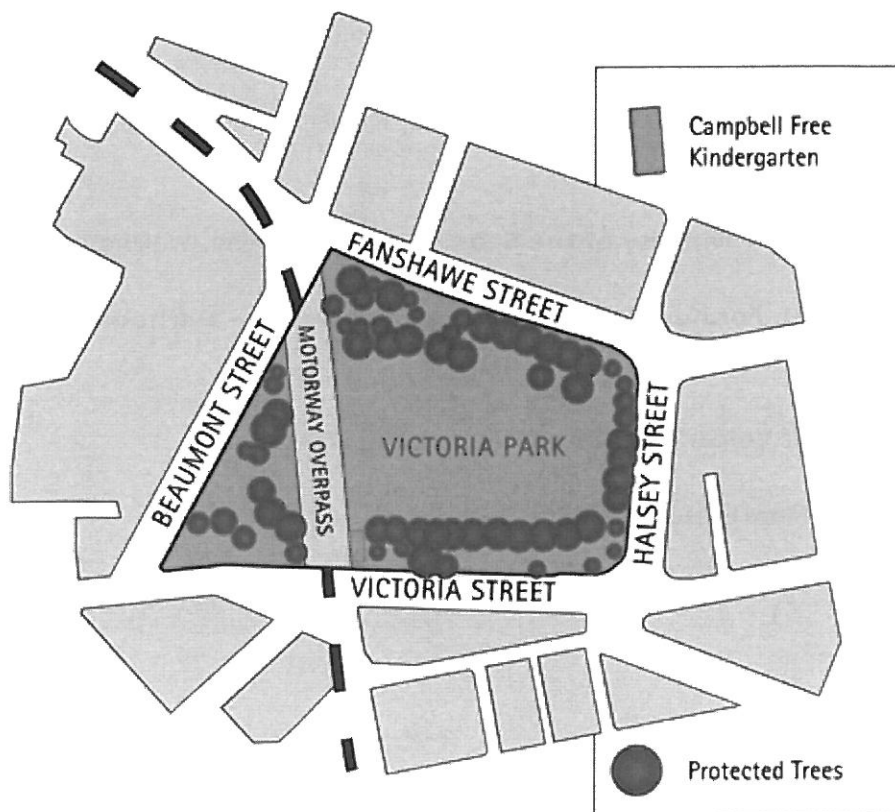


Figure 4 Auckland City District Plan – central area section Designations and Heritage Items



Campbell Free Kindergarten Building (Category B)

Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) (Category B)

65 London Planes (*Platanus acerifolia*) (Category A)

