



Henderson Valley Park

RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The purpose of a Management Plan is to:

“provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering body’s resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the Reserve for the purposes for which it was classified.”

This document is a Management Plan for Henderson Valley Park. This Plan is intended as a guide for the future protection, use and development of the Park. Funding to implement the objectives of the Plan will be allocated through the Annual Plan process.

The project team is appreciative of all those who contributed to the preparation of this Plan and in particular, those who participated in the consultation process.

Adopted

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By the

Infrastructure and Works Committee

Prepared by

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Introduction and Background

Summary

This is a Reserve Management Plan for Henderson Valley Park (the park). Henderson Valley Park has a distinctive rural nature, important in a residential area increasing in density. The park is the location of Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled. Both of these organisations attract local community and people from the wider Auckland region. The main frontage of the park is to Henderson Valley Road, lined with an attractive row of oak trees. There are two other entrances to the reserve, from Tabitha Crescent and Border Road. Henderson Valley Park adds to the amenity of the surrounding area through providing a visual link to the vegetated backdrop of the Opanuku Stream, as well as a sense of rural green open space in this residential area.

Currently, the major issues and considerations for the park are enhancing ecological values of the stream and the park, retaining the rural character of the Park, the balance of informal and formal recreation, the two playgrounds, and catering for developments proposed by the Henderson Valley Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled.

This Reserve Management Plan offers an opportunity to outline a future vision, and to develop objectives and policies to guide the management for the park. The concept plan that accompanies this Management Plan illustrates how this vision will enhance the parks amenity and aesthetic values, as well incorporating the future plans of the Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled. This Management Plan has been produced within the context of the wider goals and objectives of Waitakere City Council and within the framework of the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan and draft Leisure Strategy.

The objectives of the Reserve Management Plan are outlined below:

- To continue to allow the use of the park for formal equestrian and casual recreational opportunities in a manner that helps to achieve the other objectives of the Management Plan;
- To improve the aesthetic value of the park;
- To allow for the developments on behalf of the Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Henderson Riding for the Disabled, if those developments are in line with the objectives and policies of this Reserve Management Plan;
- To provide for appropriate Council management for the park to enable the enjoyment of the city's asset, now and in the future.
- To improve the ecological values of the Park.
- To retain the rural character of the Park.



Oak trees at Henderson Valley Road frontage

1.0 Context

1.1 Henderson Valley Park

Henderson Valley Park is a Recreation Reserve, in the Henderson Ward of Waitakere. This land was vested in Council as a reserve in the 1970s.

The majority of the park is leased by the Henderson Valley Pony Club, who have been on the park since the land was vested in Council. The presence of the Henderson Valley Pony Club ensures that the park is classified as a Citywide Park under the draft Parks and Open Space Strategy. The Henderson Valley Pony Club attracts users from all over the city, and the wider Auckland region. The Pony Club hold many events at the park.

Henderson Valley Park has two playgrounds, one at the Henderson Valley Road frontage, and one at the Tabitha Crescent frontage. A recently upgraded toilet block is at the Henderson Valley Road frontage of the park. The Opanuku Stream provides a pleasant green backdrop to the park, and views to the Waitakere Ranges are evident from many places in the park. Vegetation at the reserve frontage consists of heritage oak trees, large macrocarpa trees, and Trees for Babies planting. Within the Henderson Valley Pony Club leased area there are scattered specimen trees, a remnant orchard, and old corrugated iron packing sheds. This ensures the park has a rural element to it which is desirable to retain as it references the past landuse of the area, and therefore gives the park a sense of place.

The park sits in an urban residential setting, and is surrounded by recent subdivision development, as well as older residential housing. The Opanuku Stream runs along the northern edge of the park, and provides a buffer zone, to the new subdivision development. The park is situated at the base of the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges.

1.2 The Purpose of the Reserves Management Plan

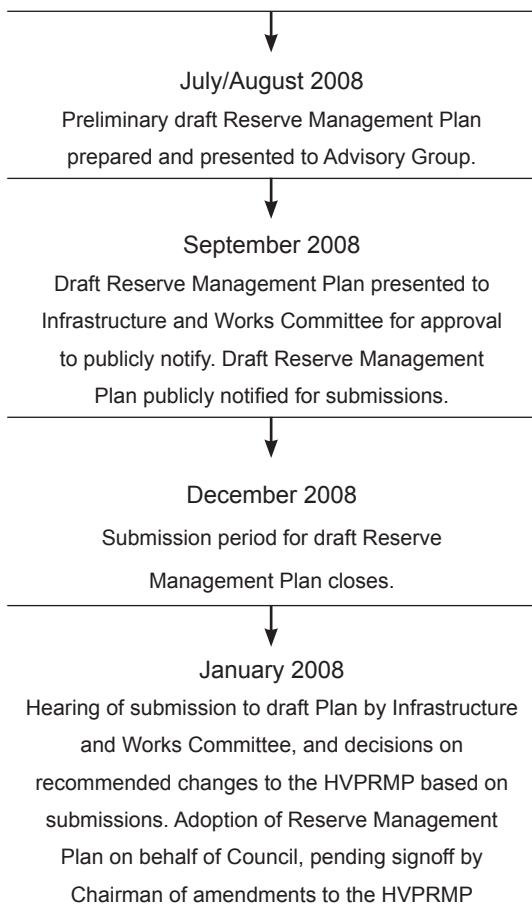
The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide and strengthen the values of Henderson Valley Park and provide facilities in a manner that reflects and retains the existing character of the Henderson Valley area. This Management Plan outlines the management objectives and policies intended to achieve this purpose. The Plan has been produced within the context of Waitakere's wider objectives, as well as Councils Strategic Priorities and Platforms.

1.3 The Management Plan Process

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

Below is a table outlining the steps taken in this process.





1.4 How to use this Management Plan

This Management Plan is presented in four parts:

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

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

Part 3 includes a Concept Plan showing how future development is to be implemented in specific detail.

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

1.5 Summary of Existing Reserve Management Plan

A draft Reserve Management Plan was prepared for Henderson Valley Park in December 1981. At that time, the surrounding land use of the park was low density residential land. The reserve at this stage consisted of only the Tabitha Crescent side of the park, to the width of the playground open space area. To the south west of this area were open paddocks that were planned for low density residential subdivision. It was considered then that there would be further reserve contributions from this subdivision.

Reserve development at that stage was to retain the 400m² set aside at the front of the park for a children's playground and toilet. The Henderson Valley Pony Club existed to the rear of this area.

The Management Objectives at the time of this draft Management Plan were:

- To retain the majority of the Park for Horse riding purposes. This was considered as horse riding is a sport that women can participate in, while many other parks are devoted to male orientated sports.
- To maintain the present children's play area and to develop this as appropriate.
- To develop and enhance the Opanuku Stream area for passive recreation and picnic areas.
- To obtain the other side of the Opanuku as reserve and to connect the two areas through bridges.
- A future car park to the Tabitha Crescent entrance to service the passive recreation area.



2.0 Statutory Requirements

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

2.1 Reserves Act 1977

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

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

Recreational use or potential, whether active or passive; or

Wildlife; or

Indigenous flora or fauna; or

Environmental and landscape amenity or interest; or

Natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, or other special features or value:

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

Ensuring, as far as possible the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, its bays and inlets and offshore islands, lakeshores and riverbanks, and fostering and promoting the preservation of the natural character of

the coastal environment and the margins of lakes and rivers and the protection of them from unnecessary subdivision and development.

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

The Reserves Act also requires that all Reserves be classified and gazetted according to the classifications laid down by the Act. The reserves covered by this Plan have different classifications under the Act.

It is important to note that classification under the Reserves Act is not the same as Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy classification. The Reserves Act is a legally-binding national classification administered by the Crown.

2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

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

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

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

- (b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development,
- (c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna,
- (d) *The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers,*

-
- (e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

2.3 Waitakere City Council District Plan

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

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

The six Natural Areas are as follows:

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

The Managed Natural Area is areas of native vegetation considered to be significant (in terms of section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act). Clearance or disturbance of this vegetation should be avoided as much as possible;

The Coastal Natural Area is areas which are considered to have high coastal natural character, and it is important that development does not reduce this coastal characteristic;

The Riparian Margins/Coastal Edges Natural Area is the margins of streams and the coast where strict development restrictions are imposed. Most of the reserves covered by this management plan have a 20m Coastal Edge Natural Area;

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

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

Additionally, there are areas identified as Ecological Linkage Opportunities, or Restoration Natural Areas, where it could be appropriate to revegetate to establish linkages between areas of existing native vegetation. These areas make up the 'Green Network' that is protected through policies and rules under the District Plan.

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

Henderson Valley Park is zoned Open Space in the Waitakere City Council District Plan. The surrounding areas are zoned General Natural area and Living Environments.

2.4 Historic Places Act 1993

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iv) *Be fully researched, documented, and recorded, where culturally appropriate; and*

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

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

Archaeological site means any place in New Zealand that —

(a) *Either —*

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

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

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

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

There is one listed Cultural heritage Item on Henderson Valley Park, which is a tree. This is CHI 2298, Historical Botanic Site.

2.5 Reserve Classifications

Legal Description	Area	Reserve Act Classification
LOT 3 DP 8632	4.35040	Recreation Reserve Gaz 1980 1642
PT LOT 5 DP 8632	3.48940	Subject to Reserves Act
LOT 63 DP 77869	0.25830	Automatically classified Recreation Reserve, Sec 3 clause b of the Reserve Amendment Act.
LOT 2 DP 35704	3.92540	Recreation Reserve Gaz 1980 1642
PT LOT 3 DP 92358	3.14640	Subject to Reserve Act
LOT 5 DP 92358	0.03130	Subject to Reserve Act
LOT 5 DP 81723	0.05090	Subject to Reserve Act
LOT 17 DP 75203	0.49000	Automatically classified Local Purpose Reserve by Sec 4 Clause (11b) of the Reserve Amendment Act, however, it is recommended that this be reclassified to Recreation Reserve.

3.0 Strategic Context

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

3.1 Waitakere City Council Strategic Platforms

Waitakere City Council has developed Nine Strategic Platforms for council that provide an overarching vision for 2020, in key areas. The platforms that relate to this Reserve Management Plan are Urban and Rural Villages, Strong Communities and the Green Network.

3.1.1 Green Network

The Green Network physically describes the network of green open space, streams, forest, street trees, residential gardens, storm water ponds, and any area that could potentially support plants and animals in Waitakere. The Green Network concept was developed with a focus on the community, and is primarily about people being a key part of the natural environment. The Green Network therefore includes the interactions between the human environment and the natural environment. These interactions are between the urban areas and its associated infrastructure, and the physical aspects of the Green Network described above. In essence, communities living in and interacting with the natural environment.

These different types of interactions that exist within the Green Network are referred to as 'roles' and provide a framework for ways in which the Green Network can be managed and nurtured in Waitakere. The five roles of the Green Network are;

- *Intrinsic Value/Biodiversity* – This refers to the natural element of the Green Network, the natural environment. The intrinsic values of the natural environment are elements that are essential to its functioning which lead to biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal species that make up the natural environment. Biodiversity includes genetic

diversity (variation in genetic makeup among individuals within a single species), species diversity (the variety of species within a particular geographical area), and ecosystem diversity (the variety of ecosystem types and their communities that interact). This role therefore provides the platform for the other roles to operate.

- *Ecosystem Services* – This encompasses the natural environment and what is discussed above, but looks at the functions that come out of the natural ecosystem processes. These functions have a direct benefit for people and how we live and operate in the environment. Examples of these are, pollination, and decomposition of organic matter to form soil.
- *Ecosystem products* – This is the natural environment and its ecosystems that produce products that people can use. Examples are building products, inks and medicines.
- *Relaxation and inspiration* – These are the range of benefits and enjoyments that are gained from our day to day interaction with nature. This includes recreation and play, amenity, sense of place, history, belonging, culture, and spiritual inspiration.
- *Community involvement and care* – This is where the community are encouraged to be involved in the nurturing of the Green Network. Such involvement encourages sense of place and ownership for communities.

Henderson Valley Park is important to the Green Network and contributes to all five of the above roles, in particular relaxation and inspiration and community involvement and care.

3.1.2 Urban and Rural Villages

The 2020 vision in regard to Urban and Rural Villages is,

“for Town Centres to be thriving, providing exciting options for people to work, live and play. Public facilities, streets and places are alive and busy.”

3.1.3 Strong Communities

The 2020 vision in regard to Strong Communities is,

“that people are active, healthy and content. They feel safe and there is a strong sense of community. We enjoy our diversity and lifestyles of people.”

The Park is of importance to this Strategic Platform as they have the potential to provide for a community focus and offer significant recreational opportunities. The reserves can reflect community identity, contribute to sense of place, and also provide opportunity for community stewardship of reserves.

3.1.4 Three Waters

The 2020 vision is in regard to ensuring that,

“Waitakere takes an innovative approach in managing drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater together, under the heading of the Three Waters.”

The reserves are important to this Strategic Platform, as the reserve carries stormwater into the Opanuku Stream. There exists potential in the reserves to design innovative management approaches in regard to stormwater and outfall structures.

3.2 Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan

The Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan has been developed in accordance with Waitakere City's Green print and provides guidelines for the management of parks within the City. The Parks Strategy outlines an integrated vision for the future of Waitakere City parks and proposes ten objectives to provide a framework for all park management.

The objectives are:

- Increase the use and enjoyment of parks
- Extend and improve the city's natural ecosystems

- Increase the opportunities for people to enjoy nature on parks
- Sustainably manage parks as part of the wider landscape
- Increase the use, range and quality of sports facilities within the city
- Protect the heritage values within the city
- Provide quality local and neighbourhood parks that are within walking distance throughout the city
- Work in partnership with iwi on the management of Waahi Tapu
- Involve communities in the design and management of parks
- Improve the management and administration of parks.

3.3 Weed Strategy

The goal of the Waitakere City Council Weed Strategy is the

“Protection of the quality, resilience, biodiversity and ecological integrity of Waitakere City's natural habitat from the impacts of environmental weeds.”

The Strategy directs Council's approach to the management of environmental weeds. It describes Council's long term goals and objectives, and provides a framework to guide the Council in carrying out its roles and responsibilities with regard to identifying, prioritising and managing weed impacts.

3.4 Draft Leisure Strategy

This document outlines the Council's goals for improving leisure opportunities in Waitakere in the future. The Council aims to improve the happiness and health of the City's people and communities by promoting:

- The enjoyment of life and leisure time that comes from taking part in fun activities which build self-confidence, skills, physical health or fitness;

- Opportunities for outdoor recreation in our abundant green natural settings;
- A sense of belonging, and 'community' and City identity.

The Strategy offers these guidelines as a way of achieving the goals:

- Diversify leisure services to focus and improve provision for different groups and communities.
- Improve natural amenity by building on the unique 'green' and 'blue' images of Waitakere City.
- Develop community focal points near where people live and shop, with an atmosphere of enjoyment and availability of low-cost casual leisure activities.

3.5 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

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

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

3.6 Te Kawerau A Maki Trust Resource Management Statement

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

The Resource Management Statement outlines the concerns and goals of the Kawerau a Maki Trust with regard to the sustainable management of the Taonga within the tribal area of Te Kawerau A Maki. Resource management issues are addressed by the Kawerau A Maki Trust within the context of achieving a balance between:

- the maintenance of spiritual and cultural values,
- environmental and heritage protection and enhancement, and
- social and economic development.

3.7 Ngati Whatua

Ngati Whatua exercises kaitiakitanga over the material and non-material resources of their tribal area through their relationship with Council (see section 6 RMA91). Ngati Whatua customary rights are sourced in the continued occupation and use of resources within this area. Implicit in the Maori resource management principle (kaitiakitanga) is reciprocity. Tangata Whenua are therefore obligated to protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the same area. These ancestral resources since 1840, the time of European settlement, have declined dramatically. Ngati Whatua through their relationship with Council therefore seeks:

- the restoration of the mauri and protection of waterways



- the restoration and protection of bio-diversity.
- the restoration and protection of customary practices such as food gathering.



Opanuku Stream

4.0 Management Plan Objectives

4.1 Approach to Preparing Policies

This plan has drafted policies that consider the key objectives of this Management Plan and the desires of Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled. As well, desires of the community have been taken into consideration.

The objectives and policies will be a guide for the future management of Henderson Valley Park, and will reflect the existing uses and values of the park. The concept plan in Part Three of this Management Plan will present the objectives and policies in a visual manner.



4.2 Community Expectations for Henderson Valley Park

The process of preparing this Management Plan began with public notification of the intention to prepare a Reserve Management Plan in January 2008.

An Advisory Group including members of the Infrastructure and Works Committee, Henderson Community Board, and Council staff was established to oversee the development of the Plan.

Open days were held during the submission process, as well as meetings with individual user groups. The draft Reserve Management Plan was prepared May – August, incorporating comments received to the first round of submissions.

5.0 Reserve Value Descriptions

“The picturesque Henderson Valley, at the foot of the forest clad Waitakere Ranges, where banks slope to the cooling Opanuku Stream, and native shrubs and ferns deck the pathways, it would be difficult indeed to find a more enchanting spot for human holiday, rest or reverie.”

From Henderson School and District Diamond Jubilee, Sixty Years of School and District History.

5.1 Natural Environment

The Henderson area lies within the Tamaki Ecological District, referenced also as the Waitakere Lowlands. This Waitakere Lowlands extends from the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges, across the undulating lowland of the Waitemata sediments, to the low-lying area of Tauranga pumecious sediments and out to the Waitemata Harbour Coastline. The origins of the Waitemata sediments and the pumecious sediments that underlie the Henderson area are described below.

5.1.1 Geology and Soils

The age of rock that underlies the Waitakere Lowlands is varied, from over 200 million years to just a few thousand years.

The oldest rocks are basement greywacke and argillites that were formed in the Jurassic period. At this time the Rangitata Orogeny occurred, a major geological event where these rocks were uplifted from beneath the sea, joining the super continent Gondwanaland. These uplifted rocks later became the landmass of New Zealand. The separation of the New Zealand Islands from Gondwanaland occurred when the Tasman Sea opened around 80 million years ago.

Around 20 million years ago, a sea level rise occurred that deposited further sediments onto the greywacke base. The deposits were made up of sandstones and muddy siltstones, which are now known as the Waitemata Group of sediments. These sediments underlie much of the Tāmaki Ecological District.

The Waitakere Arc of volcanoes was erupting at this time, and this was when the Waitakere Ranges were uplifted. Over time, the softer Waitemata sediments described above eroded. This has formed the landscape condition seen today, of the low-lying landscape adjacent to the Waitemata Harbour, with the backdrop of the bush clad Waitakere Ranges.

In the last 2 million years the geology of the Tamaki Ecological district has been impacted by volcanic eruptions in the Taupo Volcanic zone. Large quantities of rhyolitic lava and ash being erupted and reaching Auckland in the form of ash showers, or as sediment transported by the Waikato River which at that time flowed into the Hauraki Gulf.

These sediments contained pumiceous deposits, and today make up much of the low-lying areas of the Tamaki Ecological District. Low lying areas are defined as being less than 20m in elevation. The pumiceous deposits have since weathered to a soft clay and are possibly the source of the ceramic clays found the western soils.

Soils within the Takaki Ecological District vary considerably. This in turn impacts vegetation patterns. The soil parent material of the lowland areas of the Tamaki Ecological District, particularly on pumecious soils are generally fertile yellow-brown loams.

5.1.2 Vegetation

Pre-human vegetation of the low lying areas of the Tamaki ecological district was dependant on moisture, and areas of wet and dry varied in the district. Stands of totara, matai, puriri, taraire, kohekohe, karaka and titoki are likely to have grown in well drained areas. On wetter ground, kahikatea, pukatea, maire tawake and ti (cabbage tree) would have grown.

The pre-European vegetation consisted of a broad area of scrubland, between the Waitemata Harbour and the Waitakere Ranges. This is based off quotes from William Colenso, who in February 1842 travelled the area on foot.

"We travelled on, over open and barren heaths, in a northerly direction until sunset, we saw nothing in these dreary and sterile wilds, save the Dracophyllum."

However, it is a certainty that there were patches of mature kauri forest, due to the milling industries that were located in the Henderson area.

Today, the Opanuku Stream is of great importance to the overall ecological values of the park, and provides a green belt due to the thick expanse of native vegetation upon the steep stream banks of the Opanuku. This area therefore has the potential to support habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.

The natural ecology of the park has been modified for the most part due to the current land use of the Henderson Valley Pony club, who have fenced off paddocks and have jumps scattered across the landscape. Ground stability including riparian areas is unstable, due to lack of suitable vegetation.

Infestation from invasive weeds poses a significant threat to this potential native habitat.

Today, most native vegetation on the park is largely over run with invasive weeds. Neighbouring properties pose a threat to the reserve due to invasive weeds on their boundaries. Such species are *Salix* sp. (willows), *Convolvulus* sp. (bindweed), *Agapanthus orientalis*, (agapanthus), *Acmena/Syzzgium*



Spp. (monkey apple), *Monstera deliciosa*, (fruit salad plant), *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (arum lily), *Acanthus mollis* (bears breeches) *Solanum jasminoides* (potato vine).

The park has been divided into five areas. Following is a description of the vegetation types found within these areas. A map of these areas is provided below.

Area one contains tributaries to the Opanuku Stream. There are various invasive weeds present along the tributaries. The tributary between 205 A and 205 E Henderson Valley Road, has the aquatic plant pest *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (parrots feather, wandering jew, *convolvulus* sp., *Cyperus* sp., *Polygonum* sp. Willow weed, and tree privet seedlings. The



Ecological areas

waterway itself is also choked by weeds. A small planting here has been undertaken, and some weed control. Planted species consist of kauri, cabbage tree and *Carex* sp.

The tributary continues to the north, and has some native plants, mainly flax and karamu. Invasive weeds in this area include, Japanese honeysuckle, dock, kikuyu, Chinese and tree privet, convolvulus, ox tongue, montbretia, cleavers, plantain, woolly nighshade, inkweed, and a large mature buddleia.

The stream joins with the eastern running tributary of the Opanuku. This stream flows through an area of wattles and pines that are large and mature, with scattered natives of varied maturity, including, mapou, lemonwood, karo and cabbage trees. Weed species in this area consists of wandering jew, bamboo, black berry, convolvulus, montbretia, Chinese and tree privets, Japanese honeysuckle, and ink weed.

This area is of great significance as it is upstream of the Opanuku and contains many tributaries that flow into the main stream. Communication with adjacent landowners in this matter is important, as some weeds are entering the park from this source.



Weedy tributary in Area One

Area Two contains a second access way to the park. The driveway is lined with oak trees and the fence line to the west of this entrance is planted with maturing natives including lemonwood, karo, cabbage trees, karake, karamu and titoki. Weed species are present here also, consisting

of, kikuyu, tree and Chinese privets, seedlings and juveniles, convolvulus, gorse, plantain, ivy, monkey apple and dock. Also in this area is a fenced off corner off weeds, containing, fennel, wattles, convolvulus, arum lily, dock, kikuyu, cleavers dock, ox tongue, scotch thistle, montbretia, plantain, gorse, and ivy.

This area contains an artificial pond, with a planting that consists of, hebe sp., flax, mahoe, cabbage trees, kanuka, mānuka, wine berry, toetoe, ferns, *Carex olearia*, dianella, coprosma, kawakawa, tussock, kahikatea and karamu. This planting combination lacks in riparian species. Weed species in this planted area consist of ox tongue, Chinese privet, convolvulus, dock, plantain.

The remainder of area two is paddocks, with a newly developed residential area to Misty Valley Drive. The western tributary comes from the Misty Valley development. This waterway is choked with aquatic weeds with the occasional native being present. Such natives present are, ferns, karamu, and cabbage trees.

A remnant orchard is situated in this area, towards the Opanuku Stream, along the western boundary.



Area Two

Area three is the Henderson Valley Park reach of the Opanuku Stream. This stream is under pressure from urbanisation and flows over a large area with diverse land uses. The native bush strip between the paddock and the stream consists of, ferns, *Carex*, harakeke, kahikatea,

kanuka, karaka, karamu, lacebark, mahoe, mapou, mānuka, nikau, rimu, toatoa, ti kouka/ cabbage tree, titoki. Weeds are prevalent in this area, species observed were, tree and Chinese privet, nasturtium, bracken, wholly nightshade, three cornered garlic, ginger, arum lily, Japanese honeysuckle, mistflower, convolvulus, sweet grass, pampas, climbing dock, poplar, tutsan.

The outcrop of land that juts into the stream in this area contains club moss and plectranthus, bamboo and wandering jew. Sweet grass, naturism, chinese privet, kikuyu, thistles, wandering jew, arum lily, ginger are in the area of streamside vegetation that stretches up to Border Road. There are occasional natives in this area.



Area Three

Area four comprises much of the paddocks. Specimen trees such as pine and poplars have been planting along the boundary fences. In the playground area at the Tabitha Crescent frontage is lemonwood, banksia, and other exotic specimen trees.

Area five is the playground at the Henderson Valley Road frontage. The accesway to the Henderson Valley Pony Club is lined with oak trees. To the left of the entrance is Trees for Babies planting.

Specimen trees, mainly oak, macrocarpa, she oak and a large puriri are dotted around the paddocks and open space in this area. Weed species in this area are Chinese privet, ivy, bamboo, ink weed, Japanese spindle tree, arum lily.

5.1.3 Fauna

The reach of the Opanuku Stream adjacent to the Park has the potential to provide key habitat for diverse terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, as this reach is relatively intact ecologically.

The stream is important to migratory species of native fish such as inanga, and the banded and giant kōpuku.

Birds observed on the Park were pukekos, tui, wax-eyes, plovers, magpies, welcome swallows, mallard ducks, paradise ducks, black-backed gulls and red-billed gulls. These species were noted particularly around the artificial pond area.

5.1.4 Landscape

Henderson Valley Park has a distinct rural, pastoral feel. The remnant orchard and the corrugated iron packing sheds on the park contribute to the rural character, as does the pony club fences, horses and paddocks. The vegetated backdrop of the Opanuku Stream and the distant vista of the Waitakere Ranges frame the park and form an attractive backdrop to the park's rural setting.

Henderson Valley Park can be divided into four areas with four distinct landscape conditions. These areas are, open space to Henderson Valley Road frontage, open space to the Tabitha Crescent frontage, the Pony Club leased area and the Opanuku Stream area.

The Henderson Valley Road frontage contains a playground, open space specimen trees, aging macrocarpas, picnic table and a toilet block. An attractive row of heritage oak trees line the Henderson Valley Road frontage to the park. The main entrance to the Pony Club is at the eastern edge of this area, and the western edge is bounded by residential housing. A post and wire fence separates this area from the Pony Club leased area, with a stile for access. The open nature of this boundary provides views into the entire park from this area.

The Tabitha Crescent frontage contains an area of open space and a playground, with specimen trees dotted throughout. Views to the Waitakere

Ranges are present in the background. A post and wire fence separates this area from the Pony Club leased area, including a stile for access.

The Pony Club lease the majority of the park, and very much contribute to the rural nature of the park. Jumps are scattered across the landscape and post and wire fencing separate the paddocks. Specimen trees are dotted around the paddocks, with one listed heritage tree. The Pony Club leased area includes a remnant orchard and packing shed from the times this area was a nursery/horticultural site. Other plants such as rhododendrons are also remains from the nursery. To the western side of the Pony Club leased area is a constructed wetland. The area around this is very boggy in winter.

Area four is the Opanuku Stream area. The landform gently undulates towards the stream. A peninsula juts out into the stream in this area. A cycleway is proposed here that connects the Border Road entrance of the Park, along the rear of Henderson Valley Park, through Henderson Valley Green and to Henderson Valley Road.



Packing shed

5.2 Cultural Heritage and History

5.2.1 Pre-European History

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

5.2.2 Colonial and Post-Colonial History

"There are probably few districts in which such a variety of trees and plants grow as in Henderson. Fruits that delight in cold climates, such as the gooseberry, apple, pear, etc., are all grown to perfection in Henderson."

An enthusiast From Henderson School and District Diamond Jubilee, Sixty Years of School and District History.

Henderson; once covered in Kauri forest and mānuka scrubland soon became barren gum fields when the kauri was removed. These barren swathes of land were later transformed into pasture, through the introduction of grass. This led to the planting of orchards and market gardens. Gooseberry, apple, pear, peaches, Japanese plums, lemon, orange, pomelo, sweet oranges, passion fruit and other tropical fruits were grown in Henderson. Grapefruit, known locally as poormans orange, grew well in Henderson, when it was becoming popular as a breakfast fruit. Grape growing also started, and although people were sceptical of the success of grape growing in Henderson, local wines grew in popularity. Dairy farming also started in the Henderson area, and with the transformation of clay tracks to well formed metal roads, the industry boomed.

Introduced species were popular for windbreaks for the new industry. Blue gum, and Black wattle, the latter considered now an invasive weed. The following quote sums up the intentions of the time,.... *"all of which played their part as shelter trees and in later years provided much valuable timber for building purposes, fruit cases, posts etc and will continue to do so as the native timber gets worked out."*

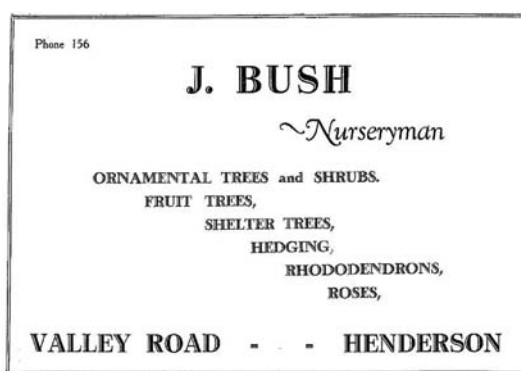
Natives trees however were used also for windbreaks, species such as olearia, karaka, totara, tanekaha, and pittosporum used commonly.

Ornamental trees were considered a means for beautifying the Henderson Area. *"The district has proved its suitability to grow introductions from many parts of the earth.... What presents a finer sight than the English Oak... when clothed in a*



mantle of fresh green leaves..." Rhododendrons, palms, and bougainvilleas were planted in the district.

An early owner of the land that makes up Henderson Valley Park was a pioneer nursery man named John Bush. Remains of his nursery stock are evident on the park today, such as the copper beech tree and the oak trees at the frontage of the reserve. Camellia and rhododendron still exist in the Park.



Original advertisement of the Nursery that operated on Henderson Valley Park

5.3 Recreation And Use

The land for the reserve was purchased in 1970, and at this time the Henderson Valley Pony Club was leasing the land from the landowners, the Sundes' who were refusing to renew this lease agreement. Waitakere City Council arranged a lease agreement with the Pony Club when the land was vested in Council.

Henderson Valley Pony Club

Following is a history of the Henderson Pony Club, provided by the club.

Originally formed in 1963 as Henderson Riding Club, we became a branch of West Auckland District Pony Club and a member of the New Zealand Pony Club Association in 1964.

Our branch grounds were originally a nursery and garden centre. The remnants of this are seen today in some of the beautiful trees and

plants that grace the ground – copper beech, oak, camellias and rhododendron, with giant bamboo as a shelter belt. The land was rented from Sunde's and the rent was paid from the grazing fees. This land was then purchased by Waitakere City Council who then leased it to Henderson Valley Pony PC, whose members have carried out the maintenance and improvements since then.

A resident living opposite the grounds had two daughters that rode, and before the clubhouse was built they used to boil the copper to make tea. The first club building was a shed which was used for just about everything – canteen, entries, storage – with the exception of meetings, which were usually held in the presidents home. The second building on the grounds was the tractor shed, which was large enough for meetings but very cold in winter. Much later the existing clubhouse was built and then extended in 2000 after Glen Eden Pony Club amalgamated with us in 1999.

Most events were held in Cooks paddock, the venue for the West Auckland Districts 30th anniversary show-jumping in 1994. Before the housing sub-division the branch had the use of the paddocks through to Border Road and the park on Henderson Valley Road. The cross-country course, which was at Open level, was amongst the sub-divisions and orchards, and in the 1980s events were held to raise money for equipment. We also staged a fully sponsored gymkhana which drew people from far and wide because of its excellent programme. We had come a long way from small beginnings: our membership in the 1980s was over 100.

An outdoor sand arena has been constructed, giving members the opportunity to keep their horse fit through the winter months. Access to a further eight acres enabled us to build an open cross-country course, in 2002 and it is to be extended in the coming year. Our cross country course includes an extensive water complex for all level of competitor. Our One Day Events attract riders from Whangarei in the north to the Waikato in the south with competitor numbers ranging from 120 to 170 riders.

Between 1993 and 2005, we had our equestrian education programme, the idea of Grant Kelly, a past president. The programme was designed to every year give three children from Waitakere aged between nine and twelve, the chance to have their own pony. The only cost to them was shoeing every six weeks. Henderson branch picks up the tab for the horse, grazing, tack, PC membership, instruction and vet bills. Unfortunately this scheme is currently in remission but the ponies owned by RDA are still leased out enabling children to feel the joy of owning their own pony.

A cycleway is proposed to the rear of the Park, adjacent to the Opanuku Stream. The cycleway is proposed from the Border Road entrance to the Park, through to Henderson Valley Road. This is considered important to open this area of the Park for public access.

Henderson Riding for the Disabled

The RDA is a voluntary, non-profit organisation who provides horse riding therapy for people with disabilities. This group was established in 1976 by the Henderson Valley Pony Club and operate two days per week during school terms, sharing the grounds and facilities with the Pony Club.

Like other RDA groups around the world, Henderson RDA provides confidence, independence and well being for people with disabilities through therapeutic horse riding and horse care. More than 20 volunteers work an average of 8 hours per week in their various capacities as instructors, therapists, horse handlers, side walkers, equipment managers, and committee officers and so on. The service that the Henderson RDA provides is in high demand because of the close proximity to the suburbs of West Auckland.



The Arena

Objectives and Policies

Part Two of this Reserve Management Plan identifies the matters arising from the investigation of the Context and Background in Part One, appropriate to be translated into Objectives and Policies. These Objectives and Policies are outlined in Part Two that are required to effectively guide the future development and management of the reserves.

A Concept Plan is included in Part Three of this Reserve Management Plan, which is a visual representation of the below policies.

1.0 Vision Statement

Henderson Valley Park will be managed to continue to provide for equestrian facilities, to enhance informal recreation opportunities and to enhance and restore ecological values.

2.0 Ecological Values

The Opanuku Stream is of great importance to the overall ecological values of the park, and provides a green belt due to the thick expanse of native vegetation upon the steep stream banks of the Opanuku. This area therefore has the potential to support habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.

The natural ecology of the park has been modified for the most part due to the current land use of the Henderson Valley Pony club, who have fenced off paddocks and have jumps scattered across the landscape. Ground stability including riparian areas is unstable, due to lack of suitable vegetation. Infestation from invasive weeds poses a significant threat to this potential native habitat.

Objective

To restore, protect and enhance urban ecosystems, and to extend and connect areas of vegetation in the park.

Policy 2.1

To continue to work with Project Twin Streams to restore the margin of the Opanuku Stream.

Implementation:

- Undertake weed control and removal of weed species that are threatening to the local cosystem, in accordance with priorities in the Waitakere City Council Weed Strategy.
- Undertake indigenous revegetation along the stream margin to enhance existing vegetation, and to provide a buffer zone from the surrounding residential areas.
- Ensure planting plans allow for any amenity areas outlined in this Reserve Management Plan.
- Develop detailed planting plans for revegetation areas that comply with Waitakere City Councils Native to the West – Lowland Ecosystems.
- Ensure planting plans retain view shafts to the Opanuku Stream from the proposed cycleway where possible.
- Seek the involvement of the local community and the Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled to assist in vegetation management of the reserves, both weed control and planting.
- Ensure, wherever possible, all new restoration planting is derived from propagated ecosourced species appropriate to the site, in accordance with Waitakere City Councils ecosourcing policy.

Policy 2.2

To establish ecological corridors, and develop lineal natural habitats in the reserves, that link the Henderson Valley Park to the Opanuku Stream.

Implementation:

- Connect patches of indigenous vegetation on reserves, through ecological linkage planting, utilising tributaries and contour lines for ecological linkage planting (refer concept Plan).
- Develop detailed planting plans for ecological corridors and enhancement areas that comply with Waitakere City Councils Native to the West – Lowland Ecosystems.
- Ensure planting plans retain and form view shafts to the existing vegetation of the Opanuku Stream and the Waitakere Ranges where visible on the park, and from surrounding residential areas.
- Allow for the development of a wetland area on the park, that incorporates the existing stormwater pond, and pony jumps as part of the proposed cross country course.

Policy 2.3

To ensure a programme is implemented that controls and manages weed infestation on the reserves in identifies areas, in accordance with the Waitakere City Council Weed Strategy and the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Implementation:

- Discourage and remove areas of garden encroachment and organic waste dumping from neighbouring properties, also investigating the possibility of signage in appropriate locations highlighting the threats of garden waste dumping.
- Liaise with neighbours in regard to invasive weeds growing on park boundaries.

- Establish a programme of native restoration and ongoing maintenance in areas of weed control, to inhibit the possibility of weed species regenerating.
- In addition to the Waitakere City Council Weed Strategy, the Auckland Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy may be referenced to aid in identifying weed pests.
- Encourage the use of non-chemical control of weeds where practicable.
- Ensure that the public are notified by signs or public notice where weed control is being carried out.
- Control weeds at the head of tributaries as a priority, to reduce weed transportation into the Opanuku.

Policy 2.4

To monitor contaminated sites caused by past landuse practices.

Implementation:

- Investigate the area if the park known to have been used as a landfill site.
- Monitor the possible contamination that may be present due to the past land use site, in conjunction with Waitakere City Council Aftercare.

3.0 Landscape Values

Henderson Valley Park has a distinct rural, pastoral feel. The remnant orchard and the corrugated iron packing sheds on the park contribute to the rural character, as does the pony club fences, horses and paddocks. The rising vegetated of the Opanuku Stream and the distant vista of the Waitakere Ranges frame the park and form an attractive backdrop to the rural setting.



Objective

To protect and enhance the landscape values of Henderson Valley Park and ensure that the potential adverse effects of structures and physical processes on the landscape are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Policy 3.1

To protect and enhance the rural character and landscape values of Henderson Valley Park.

Implementation:

- Retain and protect the remnant orchard to the north western edge of the park.
- Investigate further planting of fruit trees to reflect the past horticultural land use.
- Retain or restore packing sheds, where possible, replicating materials used and building style (refer policy 3.4).
- Retain views into the reserve, toward the Opanuku Stream green belt and the vista of the Waitakere Ranges.
- Retain the remnant orchard plants on the reserve where such species are not invasive and where such species are not hazardous to the health of horses.
- Retain views into the park and to the Opanuku Stream and Waitakere Ranges from surrounding residential areas.

Policy 3.2

Ensure that utility services are only located on the reserve if required for some function of the reserves, or visual effect is mitigated through provision of works to benefit the reserve.

Implementation:

- Ensure, where possible, that existing poorly located utility services are better integrated into the reserves environment, through design techniques such as planting, if unable to be relocated.

- Ensure that utility services are only located in reserves if required for some function of the reserves.
- Do not allow any telecommunication towers or aerials (including cell sites) on the reserves unless they are for the exclusive benefit of the reserves and have no adverse effects on the reserves environment.
- Ensure any proposal to install services as mentioned above includes consultation with Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua.

Policy 3.3

To ensure that the existing buildings on reserve land are maintained to a standard that does not lower the character and amenity value of the reserve.

Implementation:

- Ensure damage, vandalism and graffiti is cleared from facades of buildings on reserves, working in conjunction with leaseholders.
- Allow for the removal of the existing tractor shed to the north of the existing dressage arena.

Policy 3.4

To ensure that any new structures or additions to existing structures are designed to complement the open space character of reserves while not compromising the natural character and ecology of the reserve. Ensure that any new structures or addition to existing structures are approved through an appropriate Waitakere City Council process, and as listed below.

Implementation:

- Any proposal for addition of or extension to a building or structure within a reserve must meet the following criteria;
 - The need for the structure to be within the reserve, in terms of the structure

- serving the purpose for which the reserve is classified under the Reserves Act 1977.
 - The need for the structure to be sited in the location identified;
 - The protection of archaeological or heritage areas from disturbance
 - The protection of public views into the reserve;
 - The maintenance of the reserves character;
 - The contribution of the structure to the quality and experience of the reserve;
 - The public benefit obtained from the structure;
 - A minor impact on the immediate neighbourhood;
 - An ability to meet relevant District Plan requirements;
 - An ability to meet the objectives and policies of this plan;
- Utilise appropriate design guidelines and building materials, including utilising permeable and semi-permeable paving options wherever possible so as to reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff.
 - Allow for the restoration of packing shed to a usable shed. Restore the structure in keeping with its character as much as possible – i.e., retaining windows, colour scheme and materials.
 - Allow for the relocation of the existing arena. (see concept Plan)

Policy 3.5

To ensure that new and/or upgraded structures within the park and new park facilities are designed in a manner that takes advantage of sustainability initiatives such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, water reuse and recycling, waste minimisation and other sustainable building initiatives.

- Identify and incorporate opportunities for energy efficiency and water efficiency to reduce the resource requirements for buildings and structures of the park.

- Identify and incorporate opportunities for renewable energy (such as solar and wind power) to contribute towards meeting the energy needs for the park facilities.
- That all opportunities are taken to reduce, reuse and recycle waste that is generated in the parks.

4.0 Recreation and Use

The majority of Henderson Valley Park is leased by the Henderson Valley Pony Club. There are two areas of open space, and two playgrounds on the park. A cycleway is proposed to the Opanuku Stream edge of the park.

Objective

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

Policy 4.1

To increase the use and range of recreation facilities.

Implementation:

- Continue to support the Henderson Valley Pony Club and the Riding for the Disabled on the park through
 - Allow for the new location of the arena for Henderson Valley Pony Club (refer concept Plan). Investigate using the old arena for parking for horse trailers.
 - Allow for the new jumps proposed as part of the cross county course, with the incorporation of a designed wetland area.
 - Allow for the future construction of a covered all weather arena on the park, located in a manner that is sensitive to adjoining neighbour's views and is in keeping with the rural nature of the park. Ensure that the proposal is designed in a manner that is in keeping with Policy 3.4.



- Upgrade the playground at the Henderson Valley Road frontage as part of the playground renewals programme.
- Investigate installing play equipment for disabled children as part of the upgrade, for the Riding for the Disabled children.
- Retain the stile at the Tabitha Crescent open space area to allow for the informal access and connection to the playground at the Henderson Valley Road frontage.
- Upgrade the Tabitha Crescent park area (refer concept plan).
- Ensure that the grassed bridle trail that connects Border Road to Henderson Valley Road is constructed in conjunction with the cycleway.
- Allow for the removal of the existing tractor shed to the north of the existing dressage arena.
- Allow for the construction of a circular pen to the north of the dressage arena (see Concept Plan).
- Allow for spectator seating to be constructed at the two arena areas.
- Allow for the construction of a half court to the Tabitha Crescent open space area.

Policy 4.2

To support partnerships between council, the local community and the Henderson Valley Pony Club in developing and managing the park.

Implementation:

- Encourage public involvement in ecological restoration projects.
- Involve the community in planting days and events in reserves.
- Ensure that the local community is consulted on the facilities and any change in purpose when new concept or development plans are submitted.

Policy 4.3

To recognise and protect the open space qualities of the park and its value in providing passive use for the local community.

Implementation:

- Undertake a programme of specimen tree planting to improve the amenity value of the park to provide shade in the open grass areas.
- Ensure that future developments in and around the reserves do not reduce their capacity to provide quiet open space for passive use.
- Retain open space areas the park through restriction of buildings into open space areas in reserves.

Policy 4.4

To ensure safety and sight lines are provided for reserve users in Henderson Valley Park.

Implementation:

- Ensure that appropriate levels of park user safety are maintained.
- Implement “Safer Design for the Green Network – Design Guidelines to ensure that buildings facilities and plantings are designed and maintained in a way that minimises safety concerns and maximises surveillance”.
- Ensure that vegetation planted in conjunction with the cycleway above .5 m high is kept to at least 0.5 from the edge of the concrete path for the convenience and visibility of users wherever possible. Where planting abuts the path, this may be achieved by planting low plants, ground covers and grasses as necessary.
- Assess lighting requirements and install at areas of high vandalism if considered appropriate.

- Maintain all play equipment in accordance with NZS 5828 and Council Safety Standards and ensure all buildings comply with the building code.
- Follow CPTED guidelines for the future design and management of parks, in conjunction Safe Waitakere.
- Allow for sun shelters to be installed above play equipment.
- Provide shade by way of trees/structures at open space areas.

Policy 4.5

Utilise interpretation signs, artwork and other indicators to promote and enhance recreation, ecological and cultural values in the reserves as appropriate.

Implementation:

- Develop interpretative signage or other indicators to describe the historical value of the park, including signage to indicate the value of the remnant horticultural plants.
- Investigate the use of signs as botanical labels and to indicate traditional usage in revegetated and enhanced reserve areas, particularly along the proposed cycleway.
- Ensure that signs and indicators do not detract from the natural recreational values of the reserves.
- Install educational signage along the cycleway in regard to the ecological value of the Opanuku Stream.

5.0 Access, Parking and Circulation

Objective

To minimise obstacles to free access, parking and circulation without compromising reserve value.

Policy 5.1

To improve pedestrian and cycle access through the reserve.

Implementation:

- Allow for the proposed cycleway from Border Road to Henderson Valley Road, ensure that fencing and planting associated with the cycleway is in line with the objectives and policies of this plan.
- Investigate the use of signs or other signifiers (such as walkway tiles) to identify access points and link the reserves with adjacent streets and footpaths, at Border Road and Henderson Valley Road.
- Investigate the provision of a connecting track to the reserve, linking the Tabitha Crescent playground to the Henderson Valley Road playground.
- Investigate the provision of a permeable loop road connection from the secondary entrance of Henderson Valley Road, to the main carpark area.

Policy 5.2

To provide for a variety of car park locations while managing vehicle parking so as not to compromise the character of the reserves.

Implementation:

- Investigate the use of the existing arena area as potential car parking for horse trailers when the arena is relocated.
- Utilise permeable surfaces for new car parking, or for the upgrading of existing car parks or roads within the reserves and ensure that such works are in keeping with the character of the area.
- Undertake amenity planting where possible, to mitigate the adverse visual effects of car parking, and to provide shade in car parking areas.

6.0 Park Furniture

Objective

To ensure that there is a range of park furniture and facilities to enhance the recreational and social use of the reserves, while protecting the character of the reserves.

Policy 6.1

Park furniture, including litterbins, seats, signs, playgrounds and barbeques will be provided at an appropriate level to cater for local community use.

Implementation:

- Where possible, signs will be amalgamated in order to reduce the overall number of signs and all signs will be in accordance with the WCC Code of Practice, Parks Guidelines.

Policy 6.2

To adopt a unified approach to the design of site furniture, facilities and signs ensuring that the design and location of park furniture will be provided in a way that minimises visual impact on the reserves.

Implementation:

- The design of park furniture should be in accordance with Council's Parks Code of Practice Design Guidelines.
- Apply high standards of design and materials to all site furniture and facilities.
- Ensure signage is placed sensitively in the reserves in terms of visual impact, and access.

7.0 Maori Cultural Heritage

Objective

To recognise, protect and, as appropriate, promote the Maori cultural and historical values of the park and its wider catchment, and to work

in partnership with iwi on the management of issues of significance on the park.

Policy 7.1

Recognise and provide for the mauri of any site or place of significance associated with the Park.

Implementation:

- Liaise with Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua to identify all sites and areas on the park that is of significance.
- In consultation with Maori, decide on the appropriate form of interpretation for sites of cultural significance within the park and the appropriate treatment of these sites.
- Undertake archaeological assessments prior to any work involving terrain modification being undertaken within the reserves, including planting, fencing and power under grounding.
- Provide District Plan protection for all identified and recorded archaeological sites.
- Develop a strategy for the appropriate interpretation of Maori cultural values and implement this strategy in a staged way over time.
- Support the meeting of iwi objectives in the park where they do not contradict the objectives and policies of this Plan.
- Support any activities that raise awareness of tangata whenua issues, such as kaitiakitanga, tribal history of the area.
- Support the use of historical cultural and ecological interpretation, such as signage or artwork with information of historical relevance, or explaining the traditional uses of certain plants.
- Support the use and enjoyment of the reserves for any activities consistent with Maori culture, such as Hangi and Kapa Haka

as appropriate and where they meet the policies and objectives of this Plan.

Policy 7.2

Provide for the customary use of native flora by Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua and local Maori groups.

Implementation:

- Implement planting programmes, in consultation with Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua that include plants for customary use such as for arts, *rongoa* (medicinal), ceremonial and food purposes.
- Support the implementation of *pa harakeke* planting, i.e. appropriate flax collection for customary use, especially weaving.
- Ensure that any cultural harvesting of plants is consistent with the Draft Cultural Harvesting Protocols.

Policy 7.3

Involve Iwi in the design and management of reserves.

Implementation:

- Consult with Iwi in the design and management of the park, in particular with regard to proposed developments within reserves and the location of structures.
- Consult Iwi over management of priority restoration sites and any specific programmes to reintroduce native species.
- In consultation with Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua, highlight any areas of tapu and investigate possible options, where appropriate, to discourage public access to those areas.

8.0 European Cultural Heritage

Henderson; once covered in Kauri forest and mānuka scrubland soon became barren gum fields when the kauri was removed. These barren swathes of land were later transformed into pasture, through the introduction of grass. This led to the planting of orchards and market gardens. Gooseberry, apple, pear, peaches, Japanese plums, lemon, orange, pomelo, sweet oranges, passion fruit and other tropical fruits were grown in Henderson.

Objective

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

Policy 8.1

To recognise and provide for the protection and interpretation of any site or place of historical significance associated with the park.

Implementation:

- Identify and record historical sites and heritage trees located in the reserves and ensure appropriate protection of such sites in consultation with the Historic Places Trust and West Auckland Historical Society.
- Ensure that thorough archaeological investigations are carried out in the riparian margins prior to any construction or earthworks in the esplanade reserves.
- Ensure appropriate recognition and protection for heritage sites and trees through the District Plan and inclusion in the Auckland Regional Council Cultural Heritage Inventory if appropriate.
- Encourage and support the installation of artwork, park furniture, planting and other



features that illustrate local heritage values in the reserves.

Policy 8.2

To recognise and protect all trees or vegetation of historic significance within the reserves and ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the standards and techniques of approved arboricultural practice.

Implementation:

- Identify all trees of historic/cultural significance in the reserves, both exotic and native.
- Provide for the protection of all identified trees and vegetation of significance through the provisions of the District Plan.
- Implement the Council's draft Tree Strategy as appropriate in the reserves.
- Ensure that walkways and other structures are kept clear of the roots of significant trees or vegetation, where those trees are vulnerable to damage.
- Replace any amenity or specimen trees that are dead, dying or posing any hazard as appropriate in accordance with the Parks Standards and management policies.

9.0 Administration and Management

The structure for administration of day to day management of the reserves is established within the context of the Reserves Act. Consideration has also been given to the district plan, under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Objective:

To ensure the reserve is managed in terms of the reserve classification for the enjoyment if the local and regional community now and in the future.

Policy 9.1

Any activity or development not provided for under the policies and implementation in the management plan will not be permitted unless such an activity or development at least complies with the District Plan Rules for Open Space environment and the General By-laws 1990.

Policy 9.2

To achieve the implementation actions outlined within each policy in this document, Waitakere City Council will follow an annual plan process to allocate funds for these actions. The actions identified in the Policies are necessary to achieve the objectives of this management plan.

Policy 9.3

To provide for user concessions by way of permit for special events as detailed in Policy 4.3.

Implementation:

- Permits for temporary concessions or events may be granted for the use of areas of the reserves that are compatible with the objective for the reserves and in accordance with policy or implementation under this Management Plan. Applications are made to the Manager of Parks, who may consult with the Community Board as required to assess such applications.
- Permits for special events may incur an additional bond or charge in respect to the potential for damage or the need for remedial works.
- Concessions may be granted in respect to refreshments and for wheeled transport compatible with the values of the reserves.

Policy 9.4

To use the control of lease agreements to ensure the most effective and equitable use of Henderson Valley Park.

Implementation:

- Provide for the continuation of leasing areas of land within the reserves to provide for community use and well-being. The leases of facilities such as buildings will be reviewed when the opportunity arises, to ensure maximum potential of the reserve is realised for the community.
- Ensure new applications for leases will have to conform to the criteria as set out in the Community Assistance Policy and Parks Strategy. In addition the applicant will need to satisfy the Waitakere City Council that the proposed use:
 - Will be in accordance with the Objectives and Policies of this Plan;
 - Will be in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977;
 - Will not detract from the existing environment and use of the park;
 - Will generally provide a benefit (or benefits) to the public which is greater

than any adverse effect caused by granting the lease;

- Is in an appropriate location;
 - Will not cater exclusively to any one sector of the public, except where this is provided for and is appropriate in terms of the Objectives and Policies of this Plan.
- Revise and renew all existing leases in accordance with the criteria listed above.

Policy 9.5

To keep this Management Plan under regular review.

Implementation:

- Changes to the emphasis or specific policies of this Management Plan will need to be addressed following the Amendment to a Management Plan process as outlined in section 41(2) of the Reserves Act 1977.







Henderson Valley Park
Concept Plan
NTS

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Drawn by:
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One

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