

Heron Park

Reserve Management Plan

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Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Statutory framework	3
2.1	Reserves Act 1977	3
2.1.1	<i>Definition and purpose of management plans</i>	3
2.1.2	<i>Management plan preparation process</i>	4
2.1.3	<i>Legal Description</i>	4
2.2	District Plan	6
2.3	Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal	6
3.0	Council framework	8
3.1	Strategic Plan	8
3.2	Leisure Policy for Auckland City (1999)	8
3.3	Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan (1999)	8
3.4	Community Resources Model	8
3.5	Liveable Communities - Avondale	9
3.6	Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy	9
4.0	History	10
4.1	Pre-history	10
4.2	European history	10
5.0	Natural and physical environment	12
5.1	Natural values	12
5.2	Geology and topography	12
5.3	Flora and fauna	12
5.4	Drainage and water quality	14
5.5	Access and linkages	15
5.6	Buildings and structures	15
6.0	Enhancement and development	16
6.1	Access and Linkages	16

6.2	Ecological improvements	16
6.3	Recreation and Use	17
7.0	Conclusions	18
8.0	Management objectives and policies	19
8.1	Role of the Park	19
8.2	Future uses	19
8.3	Heritage	21
8.4	Flora and fauna	21
8.5	Access and Linkages	23
8.6	Buildings and Structures	23
8.7	Site furniture and signage	24
8.8	Leases and licenses	25
8.9	Adjoining land uses	25
9.0	Implementation	27
9.1	Maintenance specification	27

Appendices

Appendix 1	Certificates of Title
Appendix 2	Flora and Fauna found within Heron Park
Appendix 3	References

Illustrations

Figure 1	Location map of Heron Park	1
Figure 2	Diagram of land comprising Heron Park	5
Figure 3	District Plan zoning for Heron Park	7
Figure 4	Existing Park features	13

1.0 Introduction

Heron Park is a large block of land lying on the western shores of Waterview, overlooking the Rosebank Peninsula and the upper Waitemata Harbour. The Park was named after the white faced herons which roost in pine trees on the edge of the Waitemata Harbour in the Park.

Heron Park was once owned by the Railways Corporation but was purchased in 1988 by the Auckland City Council for roading and open space purposes. Once the proposed link between Great North Road and Eastdale Road was abandoned, Council determined to add this land to the open space network for the residents and visitors of Avondale in order to create a large park, capable of providing for both formal and informal recreation use. It is now one of the larger parks in the west of Auckland City and is surrounded by the residential areas of Waterview and Avondale.

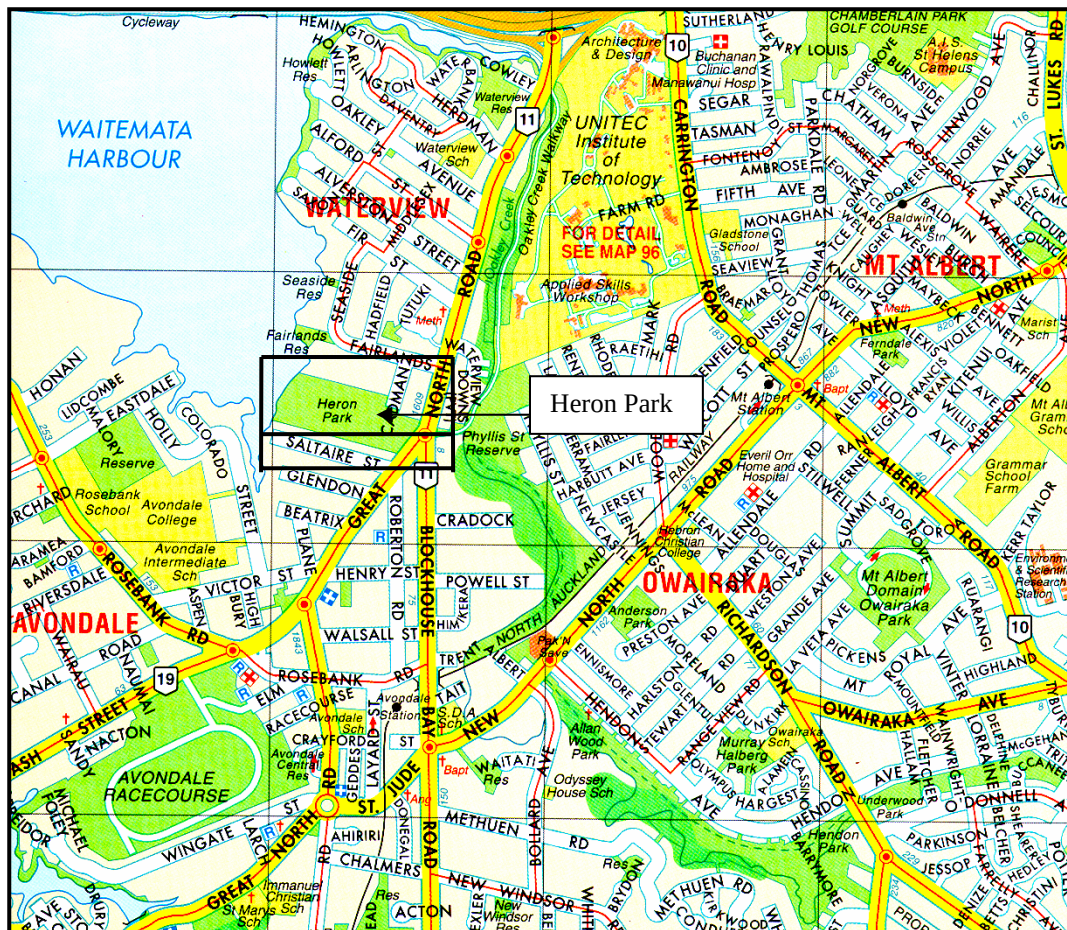


Figure 1: Location map of Heron Park

Although the majority of the Park is in pasture and is largely undeveloped, it does serve as a large, green, open space for the local residential community. It also has significant ecological potential as a result of its location adjacent to the Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve. The marine reserve was established in 1995 and covers an area of salt marsh, mangroves and harbour flats in the upper Waitemata Harbour which are nationally significant.

The future of the Park has recently been considered during the preparation of the Proposed District Plan under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). That process has highlighted the aspirations of a segment of the community for informal recreation in the Park. Details of the proposed zoning of the Park and subsequent appeals are provided in more detail later in this document.

The Heron Park Advisory Group has been set up to assist Council in the management of the Park. The Advisory Group consists of representatives from a number of local community groups and interested parties and their involvement, together with that of the wider community, has been actively sought in the preparation of this Draft Management Plan.

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View of Heron Park from Cadman Avenue



2.0 Statutory framework

2.1 Reserves Act 1977

2.1.1 Definition and purpose of management plans

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

Reserve management plans are documents outlining a series of management objectives and policies for the development and operation of individual reserves. Each plan seeks to balance the protection of natural resources with the provision of recreational opportunities that are relevant to the needs of the local and citywide community.

Heron Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977. Under Section 17 of the Act, recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing areas for recreation and sporting activities and physical welfare and enjoyment of the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside. Emphasis is placed on- retaining open spaces, outdoor recreation and freedom of access. However, where scenic, historic, archaeological, geological or other scientific features or native flora and fauna, or wildlife are present they are to be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principle purpose of the reserve.

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

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

To achieve this purpose, the plan:

- speeds up subsequent Council decision making by providing a common understanding in the community of how the reserve will be managed;
- simplifies administration by providing clear Council policy statements with regard to the reserve, which are designed to encourage consistency in decision making;
- ensures that these decisions will take into account the broad public interest, rather than being made on an ad hoc basis;
- contains management policies which can readily be understood and implemented;
- is clear about general intentions and attitudes while retaining the flexibility to deal with matters of detail on their individual merits within the general framework;
- provides a procedure for public involvement during its preparation and review.

2.1.2 Management plan preparation process

Although Heron Park is not covered by the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977, the process for preparing management plans, as prescribed in s14 of that Act, will be followed. This is shown below:

1. Council decision to prepare / review the Management Plan for the reserve
2. Public notification of intention to prepare Draft Management Plan and request for submissions (not less than 1 month period)
3. Issues identified from research and community feedback
4. Draft Management Plan produced
5. Draft Plan received by the Council and endorsed for public comment
6. Public notification of Draft Management plan and request for submissions (not less than 2 month period)
7. Council hearing of submissions
8. Modifications to Management Plan resulting from submissions
9. Council adopts Final Management Plan and advertises its availability to the public
10. Plan kept under continuous review by the Council

2.1.3 Legal Description

Heron Park is held as a recreation reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977. Certificate of Title references of the land included in this management plan are shown below and illustrated in Figure 2 overleaf.

CT58B/327	3.8656ha	being Pt Lot 3, DP 37514
	5.4974ha	and Pt Lot 70, DP 177
CT56B/1169	1186m ²	Allotment 381 Titirangi Parish
CT309/102	1012 m ²	Pt Lot 71 DP 177
CT1057/45	1553m ²	Lot 1 39736
CT1063/300	1900m ²	being Lot 2 DP 39736
CT56B/1170	844m ²	Lot 22 DP 7271
Total area	10.0125ha	

Copies of the Certificates of Title can be found in Appendix 1.



Figure 2: Diagram of land comprising Heron Park

2.2 District Plan

When the Proposed Isthmus District Plan was notified in 1993, Heron Park was shown as being zoned Residential 6a with the additional limitation of Designated Works reference E03-06. This designation was entitled “Proposed Public Reserve, Great North Road” and indicated Council’s decision not to proceed with the Great North Road - Eastdale Road link, for which purposes the land had originally been purchased.

In May 1996 Council initiated the rezoning of Heron Park from residential to Open Space in order for the zoning to be consistent with the intention to develop the area entirely as a reserve. The western two-thirds of the site is now Open Space 2 (informal recreation), while the eastern third adjacent to Great North Road is shown as Open Space 3 (organised recreation).

Open Space 2 is described in the District Plan as being principally for informal recreation and visual enhancement, particularly regeneration and retention of native plants and trees. Generally buildings are not encouraged while structures necessary for the use and management of the area may be allowed. Under this zoning 10 percent of the total area zoned Open Space 2 can be used for organised sports and recreation and ancillary structures, as a discretionary activity.

Open Space 3 zone is applied to sites providing primarily for organised sports and recreational activities. Buildings and structures may be allowed where they are required for organised sport with multiple use of sites and facilities encouraged. The visual amenity and open space character of sites within the zone must also be retained.

The proposed re-zoning was publicly notified by way of Variation 129 in August 1996 and resulted in the Waterview Environmental Society lodging an appeal with the Environment Court seeking to have the whole Park zoned Open Space 2. This appeal is still to be resolved and as part of the negotiations seeking to settle it, the Court suggested that a Management Plan for the Park be developed. This has resulted in the preparation of this Draft Management Plan.

A Coastal Management Area extends approximately 80 metres from the mean high water spring tide mark inland into the Park. This imposes stricter controls on activities such as buildings and earthworks proposed within the coastal environment.

2.3 Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal

Auckland Regional Council share responsibility with the Department of Conservation for management of the coastal marine area that extends from mean high water spring tide mark to the outer limits of the territorial sea. The Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal provides objectives, policies and rules for the foreshore and territorial sea. The Plan has yet to be finalised. Any proposed works along the coastline of Heron Park will need to be done in consultation with the Auckland Regional Council and Department of Conservation.

2.5 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (1994)

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) provides national policies for the sustainable management of the coastal environment. The Minister of Conservation has responsibility for preparing this document and approving all regional coastal plans, which must be consistent with the NZCPS. The Minister shares responsibility for the coastal marine area with Regional Councils and acts as a consent authority for all restricted coastal activities.



Figure 3: District Plan zoning for Heron Park, as amended by Council's decisions on submissions. Currently this zoning is subject to an appeal to the Environment Court.

3.0 Council framework

3.1 Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan has recently been reviewed and the new plan adopted. Entitled “First City of the Pacific” the plan sets out the Community Vision for the City and identifies a number of strategies to achieve this vision. Some of the outcomes of particular relevance to Heron Park include celebrating and recognising diversity, unique and valued environments and strong and healthy communities. These outcomes look at the provision of open space to meet future needs, improving public access to the coastline, the protection of significant natural features and ecological sites, promoting participation in community, arts and recreation activities and making community and recreational activities more accessible to a diverse range of people. The extension of walkway and cycling networks is also promoted in the plan.

3.2 Leisure Policy for Auckland City (1999)

This Policy has been developed to guide and direct decisions taken by Council that affect or influence leisure in the City. This document interprets the intent of the Strategic Plan in terms of Council’s role in leisure and describes principles and values, which underpin Council’s involvement in the provision of leisure.

3.3 Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan (1999)

This document demonstrates responsible stewardship for parks, open spaces and related assets by the Council on behalf of its customers and stakeholders. The plan aims to provide strategies that will enable Auckland City to achieve its strategic goals most effectively via the annual plan process.

The key issues relating to demographic, recreational and social trends that are identified in the plan include increasing public expectations for higher standards and a more diverse range of recreational opportunities and maintaining and enhancing environmental values.

3.4 Community Resources Model

The Community Resources Model provides a planning tool that can be used to quantify demand for a variety of community resources, including open space. The model takes into account current supply of open space and the level of demand (1998/99) generated by the particular demographics of a population in a particular catchment.

The model shows that the demand generated in the area surrounding Heron Park is satisfied by the current supply of small (<1ha) and medium (1-10ha) reserves. There is, however, an unsatisfied demand for large reserves and this is a reflection of the lack of high quality, large reserves in the western part of the city.

The model also shows that 74% of residents in the Avondale Ward visit local neighbourhood reserves frequently (several times a month or more). This usage figure is slightly lower than the other Wards in the City. However, Avondale residents rated the importance of being able to visit reserves easily at 92% - one of the highest rates in the City. Avondale residents were the least satisfied of all the Wards with the provision of City parks and neighbourhood parks (66% and 63% respectively). Again this is a reflection of the lower levels of open space provision in the Avondale Ward.

3.5 Liveable Communities - Avondale

The Strategic Plan identifies the growth in population, predicted to be over 30% in the next 20 years, as one of the key factors which must be addressed. The Draft Liveable Communities Strategy has been prepared to ensure accommodation of this growth while maintaining the quality of life in the city. This is to be achieved by selecting appropriate locations for growth to occur and working with communities to participate in planning their environments and community. This will include addressing environmental, infrastructural (including drainage and transport) and amenity issues. Avondale has been chosen as one of two pilot studies for the Liveable Communities project.

The role of Heron Park will become more important in providing open recreational space for the community in the future, with the increasing population in the Avondale area.

3.6 Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy

Auckland City is one of the local authorities involved in jointly addressing the problems of the transport network throughout the Auckland Region through the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy (ARLTS). The ARLTS has identified the need to improve the transport network between Waitakere City, Auckland City and Mangere. The process of determining the final route and what type of transport will be accommodated is beyond the scope of this management plan but will be open to public submission.

Because of its unique environmental values, Heron Park should not be considered as one of the potential routes for the extension of State Highway 20 to the Northwestern Motorway.

4.0 History

4.1 Pre-history

In 1750 pa sites at Owairaka (Mt Albert) and Te Whau (the headland at Blockhouse Bay) were the closest areas of major Maori settlement near Heron Park. Both the Whau estuary and the Manukau Harbour provided opportunities for fishing, shellfish gathering and the capture of wading birds, such as the kuaka (godwit) for food. The Whau estuary also offered easy access to the Manukau Harbour and today Portage Road runs close to the route taken by the Maori carrying their boats from one harbour to the other.

A recent search of the relevant planning documents and the records held by the Auckland Regional Council has revealed that some archaeological evidence has been encountered within the coastal margins of Heron Park. It is recorded as being historic midden material dating to the 19th century. Further archaeological investigations have not been commissioned as part of this management plan.

It is possible that future development of the reserve could encounter remnant shell middens, probably on the steep slopes above the coastal edge. In the event that archaeological evidence is uncovered, all work within the immediate vicinity should cease and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust be notified. No further work should be undertaken until all of the necessary authorities to recommence work have been received from the Trust.

4.2 European history

In 1844 and 1845 the Crown began subdividing and selling the land around Avondale and Waterview, then known as part of the Parish of Titirangi. Many of the parcels of land appear to have been purchased speculatively, changing hands several times over a short period of time. Most of these early purchasers appear not to have taken up residence in Avondale, but one who did was Dr Pollen, after whom Pollen Island is named.

By 1861 the land which is now Heron Park had become part of the 400 acre farm belonging to Robert Chisholm. Most of the property, which extended along the eastern side of the Rosebank peninsula as well as much of Waterview, was used for grazing sheep. During the second half of the 19th century a number of industries were established in the Avondale / Rosebank Road area, including potteries, brickworks, tanneries and a varnish works. None of these appear to have occupied the Heron Park land which, presumably remained a working farm.

During the early years of the twentieth century, a scheme for the construction of a canal between the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours, using the old Maori portage route, was begun but failed to eventuate.

The various parcels of land that make up Heron Park appear to have been purchased by the Railways Corporation of New Zealand during the 1950's, 60's and 80's.

At the time Heron Park was purchased by the Auckland City Council it was occupied by a number of different leaseholders on the flatter land between Great North Road and Cadman Avenue. These included panel beaters, a plant nursery and an independent fuel company with the rest of the upper area used for horse grazing. The lower portion of the site, to the west of the small stream, was occupied by stands of pine trees and other exotic and native vegetation.

The purchase of Heron Park was made by the Council with the intention of using part of the land for a road connection between Great North Road and Eastdale Road with the remainder to be used as reserve. With the decision not to go ahead with the road link, the Council decided to make all the land available for open space.



View towards Holly Street peninsula with Motu Manawa/Pollen Island Marine Reserve beyond.

5.0 Natural and physical environment

Figure 4 showing the existing Park features is included on page 11.

5.1 Natural values

The location of the Park adjacent to one of the busy access roads to the motorway network means the Park has the potential to be seen and appreciated by thousands of people each day. The large area and sloping contour of Heron Park down to the Waitemata Harbour edge enable expansive views across much of the Park from Great North Road. From the elevated eastern end of the Park, the Waitakere Ranges are clearly visible beyond Avondale and New Lynn.

The pine trees on the lower portion of the Park prevent views of the extensive mangroves and water in the harbour until one emerges through them to the coastal escarpment area. However, the pine plantation is a significant landscape feature of the Park, while some of the native vegetation has ecological value.

5.2 Geology and topography

The Park's bedrock is formed from alternating muddy sandstone and mudstones of the East Coast Bays formation of the Waitemata Group of rocks, laid down during the Miocene period. These rocks are common in Auckland and in Heron Park have been overlain with pumiceous deposits on the edge of the Waitemata Harbour.

The Park is located on the eastern slopes of the Waitemata Harbour and slopes westwards to the water's edge from Great North Road. The slope across the Park is fairly gentle close to Great North Road, drops slightly to another gentle slope in the middle of the Park and terminates in a steep coastal cliff. An un-named stream cuts a narrow gully along the northern side of the Park from Cadman Avenue and joins another un-named stream that runs along the southern side of the Park before turning northwards across the Park. They both flow into the harbour just beyond the north western corner of the Park.

5.3 Flora and fauna

The Park consists of five different mixed indigenous-exotic vegetation groups. The coastal edge bush is dominated by a canopy of exotic trees, in particular wattle. Other canopy tree species include macrocarpa, pine and broadleaved hakea. Beneath this canopy are several indigenous species, particularly mapou.

Along the lower stretches of the stream a mixture of native species including mahoe, mamaku, hangehange and ponga have been exposed by the removal of much of the exotic canopy of pine, wattle, willow, privet and woolly nightshade.

Between these two areas is mixed scrub which has recently been cleared of much of its weed infestation and been interplanted with indigenous species. To the south, and north-east of this area are several stands of pine trees, all of which appear to have been planted as a crop but only some of which have been managed in any way.

At the end of Cadman Avenue, the site once occupied by a plant nursery contains a number of trees, primarily shelter species along the western and northern sides.

Figure 4: Existing Park features

The larger portion of the Park, to the east of the stream, is covered in open pasture. Small indigenous specimens have been planted along the southern stream where the channel has recently been re-aligned.

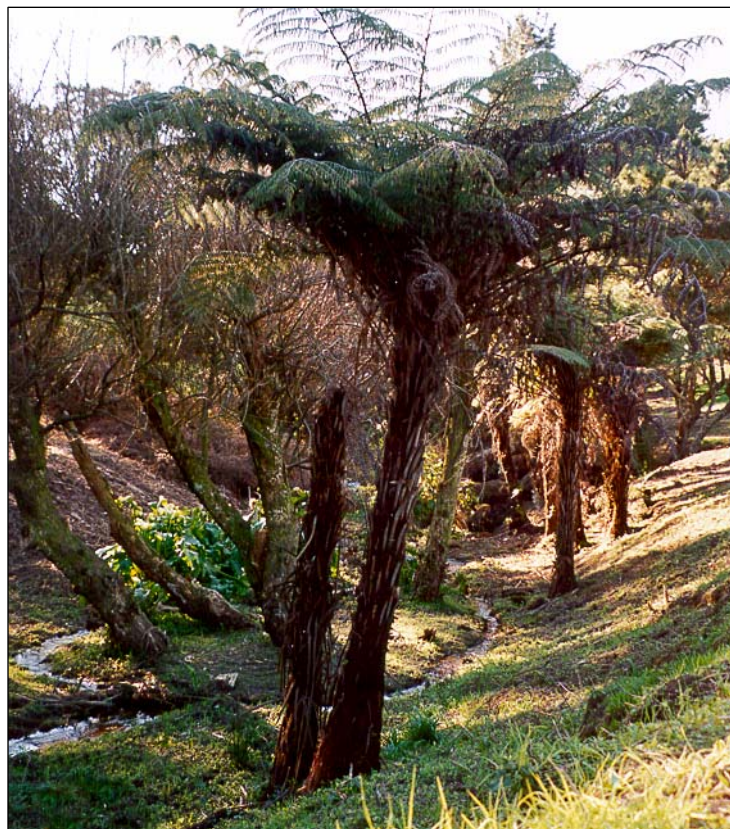
The control of noxious weeds, replanting of native species and management of the stands of pine trees as a crop are ongoing management requirements of the Park.

The Park is home to or visited by a variety of bird species and there are native fish in the southern stream. The well-being of native fauna is an issue in the consideration of management of the Park and future development and planting proposals. Management of animal pests is also an issue in relation to the protection of birds in the Park.

Lists of animal and plant species found within Heron Park are included in Appendix 3.

5.4 Drainage and water quality

The stream along the southern side of Heron Park is fed from a pipe culvert under Great North Road. It is possible that this stream is also fed by a spring. The stream is vulnerable to contamination from highway pollution such as petroleum product spills. In January 1998 Watercare Services Ltd tested water samples from each of the two streams in the Park at four different locations. None of the tests showed levels of contaminants high enough to cause any problem to sustaining plant and aquatic animal life in general. Monitoring of water quality in the park will be an ongoing management requirement.



Southern Stream

5.5 Access and linkages

Heron Park has frontage to Great North Road, Cadman Avenue and Saltaire Street. Cadman Avenue and Saltaire Street are both no-exit suburban streets serving neighbouring residential properties. Great North Road is a very busy arterial route, described in the District Plan as a Strategic Route. A small carparking area is currently located adjacent to Great North Road. Access to this parking area can only be safely undertaken when travelling northbound on Great North Road.

Pedestrian access to the Park is available from the three road frontages, but is limited within the Park to metalled footpaths from the Cadman Avenue entrance and the parking area on Great North Road. There is no pedestrian access from Saltaire Street. A concrete path has been constructed around the pine plantations at the western end of the Park, but it does not connect with the metalled paths, as construction of bridges to cross the stream have not been completed.

The Park also has the potential to form part of an ecological network of Parks creating green corridors for the movement of plants and animals. This network could extend along the edge of the marine reserve and also to the Oakley Creek which runs from north to south along the eastern side of Great North Road opposite Heron Park at the Blockhouse Bay Road intersection.

5.6 Buildings and structures

The only buildings or structures on the Park are remnants left from the former tenancies on the land. These include fences and dilapidated glass houses from the old nursery site and a house, still occupied on a short term tenancy, on the north-eastern corner of the Park on the Great North Road frontage.

6.0 Enhancement and development

The undeveloped nature of the Park and its existing natural values offer great opportunity for enhancement and development of Heron Park.

6.1 Access and Linkages

Present use of the Park is limited by the incomplete path network and lack of facilities. The principle user groups are local residents using the Park for passive recreation such as walking the dog, jogging and peaceful contemplation.

It is proposed that the path network will be completed by way of two small timber bridges across the southern stream, one for pedestrians only and the other large enough to take maintenance vehicles. Resource consents for this work have been granted. The path will then give complete access around the reserve, connecting with the street system at the three road frontages. Other, secondary paths should be considered to give alternative routes within the Park and enhancement of the three pedestrian entrances would encourage greater use of the Park.

Opportunities exist to extend pedestrian access beyond the Park boundaries. Access via boardwalks have been suggested along the coastal edge of the Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve to the nearby Fairlands Reserve in the north and via a block of land to the north of Holly Street and on to the end of Eastdale Road to the south-west. The boardwalks would provide the opportunity for appreciation and interpretation of the natural and cultural values of the marine reserve and its margins.

Opportunities also exist to improve connections to other reserves to the east of Heron Park further up the Oakley Creek including Phyllis Reserve and Harbutt Reserve. However, pedestrian access to the Oakley Creek Walkway requires the crossing of Great North Road, a busy arterial route.

Vehicle access to the Park and carparking are currently inadequate. Future development will need to be carefully designed to ensure that safe and easy access is provided, without impacting on the residential nature of the adjoining streets.

The Avondale Community Board have resolved that the main vehicle entrance to the Park should be developed at the traffic lights at the intersection of Great North Road and Blockhouse Bay Road. This was because residents of Cadman Avenue and Saltaire Street had expressed concerns about increased traffic in their streets.

6.2 Ecological improvements

There is great potential for improvement of the ecological and aesthetic values of the Park. Native vegetation along the lower portions of the streams should form the basis for extensive revegetation of the western part of the Park. There is also potential for the creation of a stormwater detention pond in the southern stream just upstream from its confluence with the northern stream and a resource consent for this work has been granted but not expedited. Such a pond would add to the diversity of wetland and aquatic species which could be introduced to the Park while also slowing the flow of water sufficiently to allow a greater proportion of the suspended solids carried by the stream to settle out, thereby improving the quality of the water being discharged into the marine reserve.

Extensive revegetation in indigenous species is appropriate between the stream and the coastal escarpment. The retention of some open areas along the top of the coastal escarpment will allow

for views across the neighbouring marine reserve to Pollen Island. More open areas should be retained on the higher portions of the Park to the east of the stream, to ensure the expansive views are retained. This will also enable the middle and upper part of the Park to be used for children's play and informal recreational pursuits.

Retention of the pine plantation and silvicultural management are appropriate. It provides an opportunity to manage an urban woodlot in a way that is quite distinctive from other types of tree management, and has educational benefits for the general public. It will also provide some economic return in the future which will be reinvested in further development of the Park. The commercial harvest of the pine trees will be planned to minimise damage to the landscape character of the Park and they will be replaced with suitable native vegetation.



Pine Plantation

6.3 Recreation and Use

As a result of the submissions made to this draft management plan it is clear that the majority of the submitters are against the construction of a formal field at the eastern end of the Park. However, the development of a large multipurpose open area which can be used for informal activities and special events, such as 'Avondale Festival' days and for casual sporting activities such as kilikiti etc would be appropriate. Development of the Park should also include the provision of other complementary park facilities which are consistent with the informal recreation role of the Park. These improvements should include:

- children's play equipment
- seats
- litter bins
- barbecues

- toilets
- signage, including interpretive signs

7.0 Conclusions

The conclusions drawn from the various issues affecting the management of Heron Park form the basis for the Objectives and Policies which comprise the next section of the management plan.

8.0 Management objectives and policies

Vision

To develop the recreational amenities of Heron Park for multi-purpose public use and enjoyment, while protecting and enhancing the natural environment and landscape attributes of the land.

8.1 Role of the Park

Objective 1

To manage, protect and enhance the natural attributes of the Park while providing informal recreation facilities for use by the local and citywide community.

Explanation

The physical location of Heron Park, between a busy arterial route and the Motu Manawa/Pollen Island Marine Reserve with the surrounding housing, makes it an important green space and local landscape feature. This attribute of the Park should be built upon sensitively to ensure the long term enhancement of the neighbourhood for both the local and wider community.

Policy 1.1

Undertake the preparation of a development plan providing for improved ecological and natural features of the Park and for informal recreation activities.

Policy 1.2

Undertake enhancement of the street appeal of the Park so that it has a positive impact on the local environment, without losing the expansive views to the Waitemata Harbour and Waitakere Ranges.

Policy 1.3

Ensure the development plan incorporates proposals for the appropriate ecological integration of the Park with the neighbouring marine reserve.

8.2 Future uses

Objective 2

To enhance opportunities for informal recreational use of the Park by the public, while recognising its residential location, cultural and environmental values.

Explanation

The residential neighbourhood and cultural and environmental values of the Park are sensitive to development which could occur. Care must be taken in the preparation of development proposals to ensure a balance is achieved between protecting these values and providing for the anticipated needs of the future users of the Park.

Policy 2.1

Ensure that all proposed future uses for the Park enhance the informal recreational role and values of the Park.

Policy 2.2

Ensure that any proposed activities are compatible with the character of the Park and will not generate unacceptable levels of traffic, noise, nor have significant impacts on the informal recreation values or city-wide and local community use of the reserve.

Policy 2.3

Ensure that any future use has a need to be located in the Park, with reference to other opportunities provided elsewhere in the city.

Policy 2.4

Ensure that development proposals for the Park recognise the need to incorporate an expansion of the informal recreation activities available by the provision of such facilities as:

- community recreation/events space
- children's play equipment
- seats, bins and barbecues
- toilets
- improved, all-weather footpaths
- appropriate planting
- appropriate signs etc

Policy 2.5

Ensure that special events proposed for Heron Park are approved by the Council and meet the following assessment criteria:

- the need for the proposed activity to be located in the Park when evaluated against opportunities provided at other city parks or on private land or within the commercial sector
- the need to protect cultural and environmental values
- the need to protect spatial and informal recreation qualities of the Park
- compatibility of the proposed activity with other activities on the Park and the surrounding area in terms of the scale and nature of the proposal, the numbers of people involved, traffic generation, timing of the activities and support facilities required
- compatibility with other Management Plan policies and where necessary the District Plan, Reserves Act and other approved open space policies of Council

Policy 2.6

Undertake regular monitoring of water quality within the Park to ensure aquatic species are not threatened by contaminants from the road run-off feeding into the streams.

8.3 Heritage

Objective 3

To protect sites of cultural heritage significance.

Explanation

Heron Park, being close to the Waitemata Harbour could contain remnant shell midden or other archaeological material, particularly on the steep coastal escarpment. Features of historical significance need to be protected and enhanced and educational opportunities provided.

Policy 3.1

To protect sites of archaeological, historic and cultural significance.

Policy 3.2

To ensure that should archaeological evidence be uncovered all work within the immediate vicinity of the site ceases, to recommence only on approval of local iwi and the Historic Places Trust.

Policy 3.3

To provide interpretation material if archaeological sites are found in the reserve, in consultation with local iwi.

Policy 3.4

Undertake an archaeological survey of the Park as part of the preparation of the development plan.

8.4 Flora and fauna

Objective 4

To ensure vegetation management addresses the issues of weed clearance, ecological enhancement, and pine tree management.

Explanation

Noxious weeds and environmentally damaging plants are an ongoing management problem in the Park, particularly along the un-named streams. The eradication of these species will require careful coordination to ensure indigenous vegetation is protected. Cooperation from neighbouring property owners, particularly towards the western ends of both Saltaire Street and Fairlands Avenue, would be advantageous to ensure overall benefit for the whole community. At the same time, management of the existing pine plantation is required, in order to realise some long term return.

Policy 4.1

Undertake the development of a vegetation management programme which will include weed eradication and appropriate replanting, building on the existing native vegetation, enhancing the spatial qualities and protecting views within the Park.

Policy 4.2

Ensure the vegetation management programme includes weed clearance techniques that will not threaten indigenous vegetation, avoiding chemical sprays where appropriate, in accordance with current practice, as outlined in the weed management policy of Council. Whenever possible non-chemical weed control methods be used including physical removal of weeds.

Policy 4.3

Ensure the local community is encouraged to get involved in the vegetation management of the Park.

Policy 4.4

Ensure enhancement of indigenous wildlife is considered within the reserve when selecting species for planting.

Policy 4.5

Ensure existing vegetation and new planting are designed to encourage passive surveillance within and from outside the Park and not hinder the perceived safety of park users.

Policy 4.6

Undertake the preparation of a silvicultural management schedule for the woodlot, incorporating harvesting strategies and replacement with appropriate native vegetation.

Policy 4.7

Take appropriate measures to control animal pests, as they become a public nuisance or are adversely affecting the reserve, using safe and proven methods.

8.5 Access and Linkages

Objective 5

To ensure pedestrian and vehicle access to and within the Park, and pedestrian linkages beyond the Park are sufficient to provide for public use, while protecting the informal recreational amenities of the Park.

Explanation

While the Park is used by local residents, by improving pedestrian access it is hoped the Park will become more inviting to a wider group of residents as well as members of the public who may not necessarily live within walking distance. Footpaths within the Park also offer opportunities for recreational use such as cycling and walking.

Policy 5.1

Ensure that vehicle access from Saltaire Street and Cadman Avenue does not impact significantly on the residential nature of those streets.

Policy 5.2

Pursue opportunities to improve vehicle access from Great North Road, incorporating appropriate pedestrian crossings.

Policy 5.3

Pursue opportunities to provide sufficient carparking close to vehicle access points, ensuring the impacts of parking areas does not detract from the natural qualities of the Park or the residential neighbourhood.

Policy 5.4

Undertake to complete a network of all-weather footpaths around the Park, including completion of two small bridges over the southern stream.

Policy 5.5

Pursue opportunities to provide a walkway links between Heron Park and other reserve land.

Policy 5.6

Improve Park signage generally and presentation to Great North Road in particular to encourage greater awareness and use of the Park.

Policy 5.7

Pursue opportunities for public access to and along the adjoining Coastal Marine Area.

8.6 Buildings and Structures

Objective 6

Limit the number of buildings and structures on the Park to those which complement the informal recreation amenity of the Park.

Explanation

The community have expressed their concern about potential anti-social behaviour should sporting facilities and associated buildings be located on the Park. There is limited opportunity for a buildings to be located on the reserve without impacting on the landscape amenity of the Park.

Policy 6.1

Ensure buildings and structures proposed to be located on Heron Park comply with the following criteria:

- are directly related to the community based informal recreation role of the Park and cannot be accommodated more appropriately elsewhere;
- the impact(s) of any future building on the visual integrity of the Park and its landscape setting is minimal and that the buildings physical presence does not compromise the use of the Park for informal recreational purposes;
- the impact(s) of any future building on the residential amenity of neighbours is minimal.

8.7 Site furniture and signage

Objective 7

To utilise Councils adopted standards when selecting and placing all site furniture and signs to achieve integration in the Park setting.

Explanation

In order to protect the natural character of the Park, furniture needs to be kept to a minimum and remain clustered to maintain uninterrupted open space. Consideration needs to be given to a consistent design throughout the Park.

Policy 7.1

To develop and implement an integrated design for site furniture, appropriate for the Park.

Policy 7.2

To ensure the number of signs and items of furniture are sufficient for the informal recreation role of the Park.

Policy 7.3

To implement on site interpretation material and signage at appropriate locations.

Policy 7.4

To improve directional signage to the entry points and throughout the Park.

8.8 Leases and licenses

Objective 8

To manage future leases and licenses over parts of the Park or buildings thereon in terms of the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and the Council's current leasing and licensing policy and in accordance with the objectives and policies of this management plan.

Explanation

Reserve land is a scarce and precious community resource, exclusive use or activities which restrict public use should not generally be condoned.

Policy 8.1

Ensure no leases are entered into until all other consents, including resource consents are obtained.

Policy 8.2

Ensure no lease or license is entered into which significantly limits the public use of the reserve for informal recreation.

Policy 8.3

Ensure lease(s) pertaining to any development of buildings on the land reflect the use of the Park for informal recreational purposes and incorporate multiple use of any the building.

8.9 Adjoining land uses

Objective 9

To encourage and foster good relationships with the adjoining landowners and the community to the mutual benefit of both parties.

Explanation

Activities on adjoining residential properties, such as tree and shrub planting, can be complementary and enhance the landscape values of the reserve. Other activities can be detrimental. Adjoining landowners should be encouraged to appreciate and enhance the resource to the benefit of both themselves and the general public. It is also important to ensure that the management of the reserve does not impact adversely on the coastal environment and adjoining neighbours.

Policy 9.1

To adopt an integrated approach to the management of the coastal area by working co-operatively with Auckland Regional Council and Department of Conservation on matters which extend their influence across coastal management boundaries.

Policy 9.2

To minimise the adverse effect of stormwater discharge and other land based activities undertaken on the reserve on the coastal edge and water quality of the marine reserve.

Policy 9.3

To encourage compatibility of adjoining landuses and development with the values of the reserve.

9.0 Implementation

Implementation of this management plan will be achieved through the following means:

1. Reference when applications for development and use are considered under the Resource Management Act 1991.
2. Reference when leases and licenses are requested for use and occupation.
3. Reference when considering the purchase or requirement of additional reserve land adjacent to the reserve.
4. Reference when preparing a development plan and vegetation management strategy for the reserve.
5. Reference in developing maintenance specifications for the reserve.

Methods 1) to 3) listed above will be instigated through actions other than by the Council. However, methods 4) and 5) are instigated by the Council usually on an as need or annual basis through the Council's Annual Plan and works programme.

9.1 Maintenance specification

The maintenance of Heron Park is carried out by contractors working to specifications which cover matters such as weeding, pest control, litter control, path maintenance, mulching, grass mowing etc. The objectives and policies of the management plan will guide the preparation of these specifications.

APPENDIX 1

Certificates of Title

APPENDIX 2

Flora and Fauna found within Heron Park

Conspicuous Vegetation on Heron Park

<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	✧	asparagus fern
<i>Blechnum</i> sp		kiokio
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>		karamu
<i>Cortaderia</i> sp	✧	pampas grass
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	✧	macrocarpa
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>		ponga
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>		mamaku
<i>Dianella nigra</i>		blueberry
<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>		cutty grass
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>		hangehange
<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	✧	willow-leaved hakea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>		manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculata</i>		mingimingi
<i>Ligustrum</i> sp	✧	privet
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>		mahoe
<i>Myrsine australis</i>		mapou
<i>Paraserianthes lophanthus</i>	✧	brush wattle
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	✧	pine
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>		kohuhu
<i>Pomaderris ericifolia</i>		tauhinu
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>		bracken
<i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>		slender panic grass
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	✧	blackberry
<i>Salix</i> sp	✧	willow
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	✧	woolly nightshade
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	✧	wandering jew
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	✧	gorse
<i>Watsonia bulbilifera</i>	✧	bulbil watsonia

✧ denotes exotic species

From: Boffa Miskell Ltd 1996: Heron Park Ecology Report

Aquatic Life

Annelida	worm
<i>Chironomus zealandicus</i>	midge
<i>Galaxias fasciatus</i>	banded kokopu
Nematode	thread worm
<i>Paratya</i> sp	freshwater shrimp
<i>Physa</i> sp	snail
<i>Xanthocnemis zealandica</i>	red coated damsel fly

From: Boffa Miskell Ltd, 1998: Proposed Bridges and Pond, Resource Consent Application

APPENDIX 3

References

REFERENCES

Oaks R. 1994: The Challenge of the Whau

Barton I. 1996: Pinus radiata at Heron Park, Waterview

Tuohey Consulting Ltd 1997: Heron Park, Avondale: Traffic Engineering Assessment

Boffa Miskell Ltd 1998: Heron Park Boardwalks: Scoping Report

Boffa Miskell Ltd 1999: Heron Park, Avondale: Proposed Bridges, Pond & Associated Land Disturbance Activities: Resource Consent Application & Outline Plan Advice

Boffa Miskell Ltd 1999: Proposed Boardwalks Heron Park: Assessment of Environmental Effects

Also referred to in the preparation of this Draft Management Plan were Auckland City Council files and 300 public submissions made in response to the advertisement calling for submissions on the management plan.