

# WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PARK PLAN



AUCKLAND CITY

August 1995



AUCKLAND CITY

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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A Roche

18 September 1995

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PLAN**

The Western Springs Lakeside Plan was adopted by the Auckland City Council on 23 August 1995. Enclosed please find a copy of the plan for your information.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Roche  
Convenor  
Advisory Group  
Cox's Bay Reserves Management Plan



**AUCKLAND CITY**

## **WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PARK PLAN**

The Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan was adopted by the Auckland City Council on 23 August 1995.

The Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan is available for inspection during normal office hours at the Auckland City Corporate Office, 11th floor reception desk, 1 Greys Avenue, the Western Area office, 409 New North Road, Kingsland, the Auckland Central Library, the Grey Lynn Library, the Point Chevalier Library and the Leys Institute Library. Copies of the Plan may be obtained at the Western Area Office or by telephoning the help desk at 815-3050.

NZ Herald on Tuesday 19 September and Friday 22 September 1995 and  
The Harbour News on Wednesday 20 September and Friday 22 September 1995.

# **WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PARK PLAN**

**August 1995**

**Auckland City  
Auckland  
New Zealand**

**Telephone : (09) 379 2020**

*The Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan has been prepared by Boffa Miskell  
as consultants to Auckland City under direction of an advisory group  
comprised of Anne Roche, Cameron Parr and Surendra Dass.*

**Municipal Reference Library  
Auckland City Council**

# Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

SIB 328878

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# 1.0

## CONTEXT

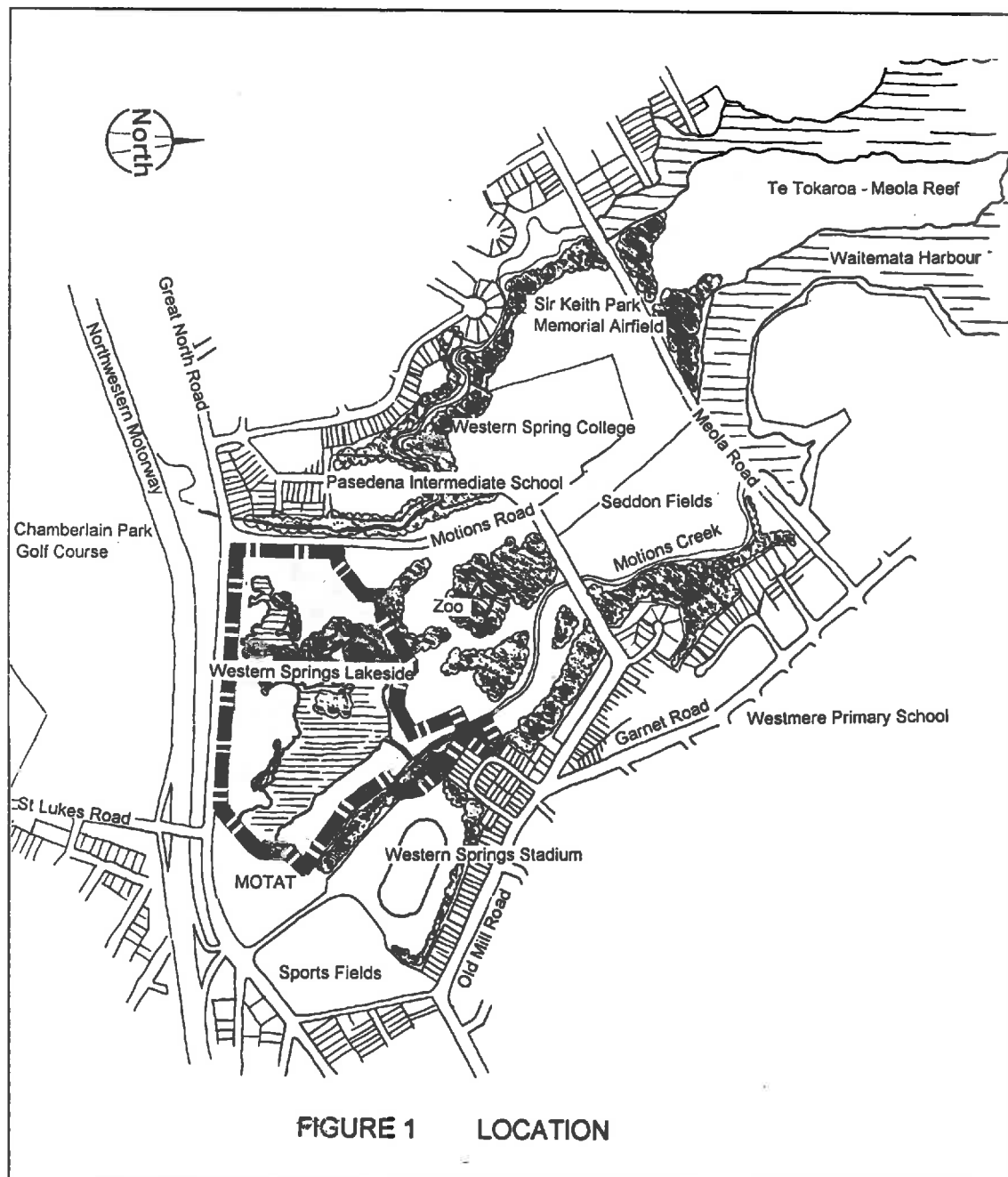
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## Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## 1.1 Location

Western Springs Lakeside Park comprises 26 hectares of wetland, lake, shrubland, forest, gardens and open space. It is part of a complex of leisure and educational facilities of considerable importance to the City and Region. To the north-west are the Zoological Gardens, to the north-east the Western Springs Stadium and to the east the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT). Frontage on the other two sides is to Great North Road and Motions Road (Figure 1).



The Park forms a green corridor link which extends from Meola Reef and Motions Creek inland to Chamberlain Park Golf Course, which lies to the east of the Park across the Northwestern motorway. The importance of this corridor was recognised by Auckland City in the report entitled "*Western Springs Meola Open Space Corridor*" (January 1992).

The Park's special character is derived from its location, topography, water features, landscape and wildlife values and its relationships with neighbouring activities.

### 1.2 Legal Description

The legal description for the Western Springs Lakeside Park is part Allotments 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 of Section 9, Suburbs of Auckland (CT 932/171), together with Lot 1 DP 31373 (being a portion of Allotments 17 and 18 of Section 9, Suburbs of Auckland - CT 930/49), and Allotments 54 and 55 of Section 9, Suburbs of Auckland (CT 260/1104). The boundaries of these Allotments together with the surrounding tenure is described on Figure 2. The Auckland City has prepared a survey plan of subdivision which identifies the Lakeside park, the zoo, stadium and MOTAT boundaries.

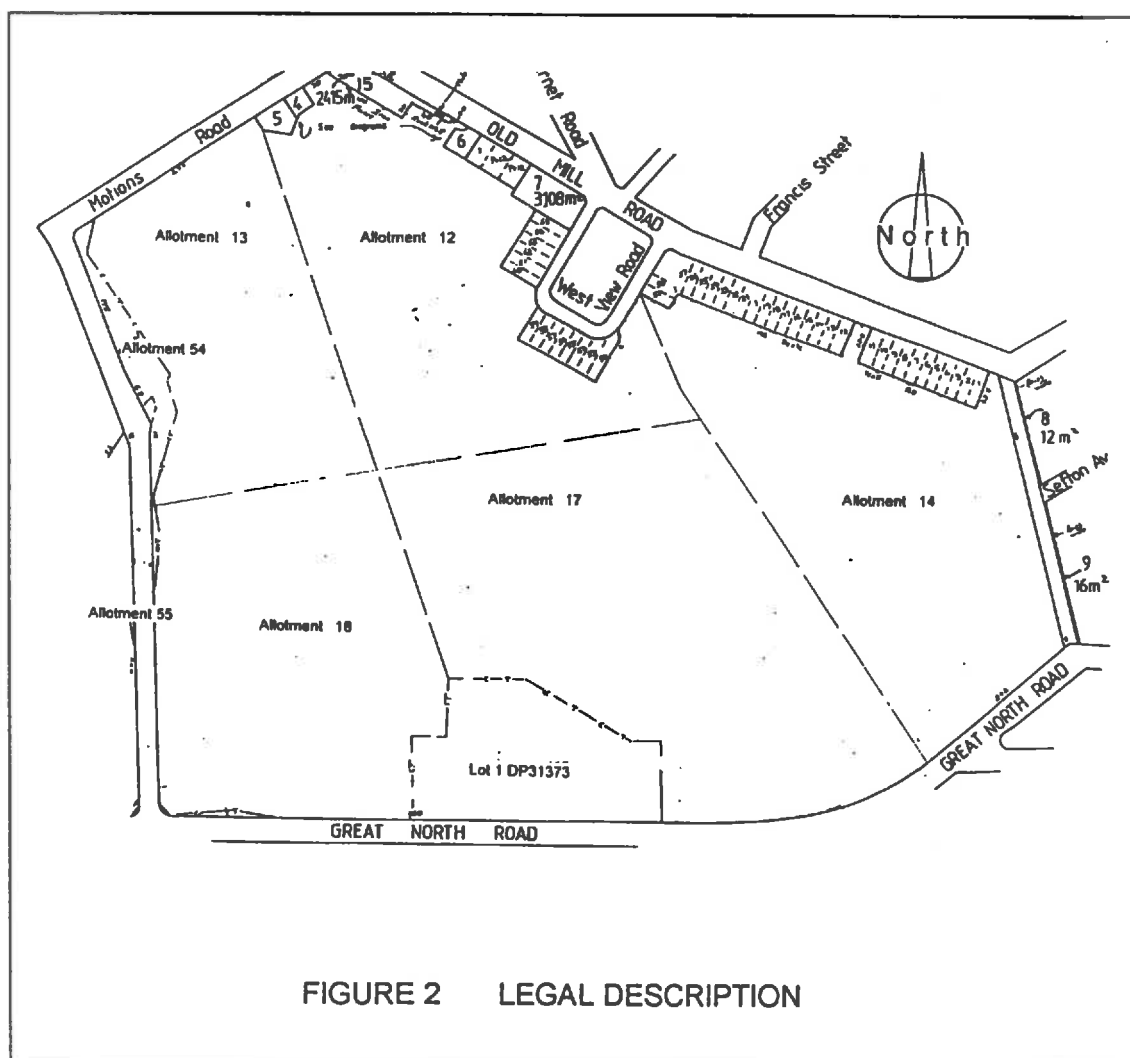


FIGURE 2 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

### 1.3 Historical and Cultural Heritage

Maori history for the area is not widely documented, but the Tamaki Makaurau was home to many hapu, who tended to follow a continuing cycle of bush clearance for cultivation of new gardens, and return to old gardens. Seasonal and other changes in food supplies dictated movement of these groups. In addition, changing relationships between hapu resulted in the occasional occupation of fortified pa. The springs and stream of Waiorea (Western Springs) were an important location for the harvesting of the Orea (eel).

In the mid-1800s the infant town of Auckland was starting to expand. By 1870 water obtained from the natural springs in the Auckland Domain was no longer sufficient to support the growing population. A number of possible alternatives were investigated and in 1874 it was decided to use Western Springs as the new supply. Pumping facilities were installed and the lake was developed to assist with water supply.

However, the cost of filtering equipment (required as a result of rising health standards) and increasing maintenance costs eventually lead to pumping being discontinued at Western Springs, being replaced with water from the reservoirs which had been built in the early 1900s within the Waitakere Ranges.

A somewhat chequered history then followed regarding use of the area, until the Auckland City Council resumed responsibility in the 1950s. A number of developments were proposed for the site, but in 1961 the Parks Department was given responsibility for its management. Since then the Park has been managed with an increasing emphasis on enhancing its natural values while keeping it primarily as an informal recreation resource.

A more detailed account of the historical and cultural values of the Park is given in Section 4.1 of this plan.

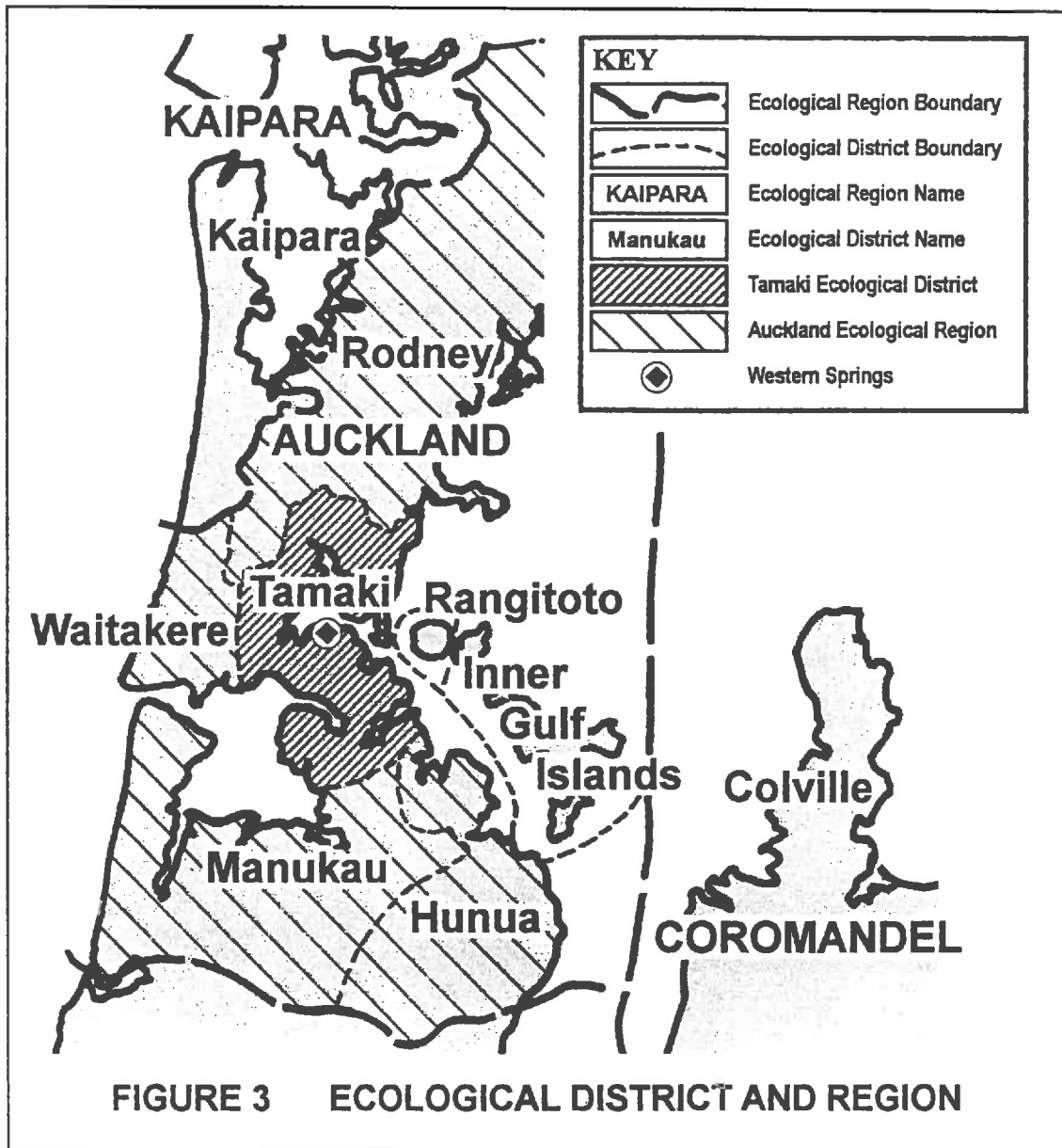
### 1.4 General Characteristics and Use

Western Springs is a Premier Park in Auckland City. It serves city wide users as well as neighbouring communities. It is of significant recreational value and is frequently visited by tourists.

The Park is also a unique natural asset which has significant conservation values. In particular the lake and wetlands of the Park have been identified by the Department of Conservation as being of regional significance.

The Park is situated within the Tamaki Ecological District, itself being within the Auckland Ecological Region (*Figure 3*). In terms of natural values the Park is not only significant within the context of its ecological district but also within the context of its wider ecological region. This places importance on maintaining and enhancing its natural values.

The general character of the Park is comprised of three broad types, being a parkland area, a (rehabilitated) natural area and the Western Springs Lake (Waiorea) itself. Each of these comprises about one-third of the Park (Figure 4).



The parkland area has developed into the style of the traditional European Park (ie. well maintained treeland, shrubberies, gardens and open space). Recreational activities are predominantly passive and informal and include walking, relaxing and picnicking. Several barbecues and children's play facilities are located within this area.

The natural area is comprised of a large wetland (together with an island), a lagoon, the springs themselves, an area of regenerating native forest and a number of small islands within the lake (situated adjacent to the areas listed above).

The ecological and conservation values of this area are very significant, and are described in Section 4.3 of this plan.

The lake is not used for any formal or active recreational activities, being managed instead for its visual, aesthetic, amenity and wildlife values.

The Park plays an important role as a destination for visitors. From studies undertaken for this plan the majority of users of the Park are resident in the Western Bays area, but there is a strong use from throughout Auckland City and the Region.

The Park is used for informal recreation by families, groups and individuals. The predominant activities are walking, relaxing and either watching or feeding the waterfowl. The natural and wildlife values that are present are also of considerable interest to many users. Occasionally the Park is used for special events. The most notable of these is the Pasifika festival.

Recreation values are recognised by the zoning of the site under the Operative and Proposed District Plans (refer to Appendix 6.1).

Auckland City, in its discussion document *"Recreation in Auckland City, Issues and Future Directions"* (1994), highlighted two major themes. Firstly the need to protect existing open space with recreational or environmental values, and secondly the need to provide additional areas for informal and easily accessible recreation.

It also identified the need to recognise an increase in cultural and lifestyle diversity; a growing population and a decrease in the average age; increased environmental awareness; and an increase in informal non-team or casual recreation activities. These points have been kept in mind in developing this plan.

Access to the Park is predominantly by motor vehicle or public transport. Car parking is shared with the surrounding leisure destinations. A tram route originating at MOTAT links that facility to the Zoo via the Great North Road and Motions Road frontage to Western Springs Lakeside Park. In order to resolve several issues in respect to parking and transport Auckland City produced the *"Draft Western Springs Transport Study"* (1993). This document covered roading, parking, pedestrian links and alternative forms of transport in the context of the Park, Zoo, Stadium and MOTAT and their linkage through to Meola Reef. Additional parking areas were proposed along Motions Road and in the vicinity of the Stadium Sports fields. Linkages between the activities were also proposed, including an extension to the existing tram route.

### 1.5 Approach to the Preparation of the Plan

Since Western Springs Lakeside Park is not classified under the Reserves Act 1977, the requirement to produce a Management Plan under Section 41 of that Act is not mandatory. For this reason the document has been titled "Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan", rather than "Management Plan". The plan will, however, seek to follow the processes and obligations prescribed in the Act.

These processes are as follows :

1. Notification that a Park Plan is to be prepared and a call for initial public submissions on the proposed Plan.
2. Preparation of a draft, following consultation with the adjoining activities, neighbourhood schools, local iwi and Auckland City parks staff. A survey of users was also undertaken as part of the public consultation exercise.
3. Draft forwarded to Community Board and then to the Auckland City Recreation and Community Services Committee.
4. Notification of the draft Park Plan, together with a public meeting and a call for written public submissions.
5. Analysis of submissions and recommendations for changes or modifications to the draft.
6. Council committee hearing of submissions.
7. Final Park Plan approved and publicly available.

## **1.6 Western Springs Lakeside Park : Plan Objective**

The intention under this plan is not to change the direction or management practices now undertaken at the Park, but to improve these practices to achieve responsible management of its natural, cultural and landscape values for community benefit and enjoyment. The objective for the Park is therefore established as :

### ***Western Springs Lakeside Park Management Objective***

**FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, TO ENHANCE THE INFORMAL RECREATION, CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC VALUES OF WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PARK WHILE PROTECTING AND IMPROVING ITS UNIQUE CONSERVATION VALUES.**

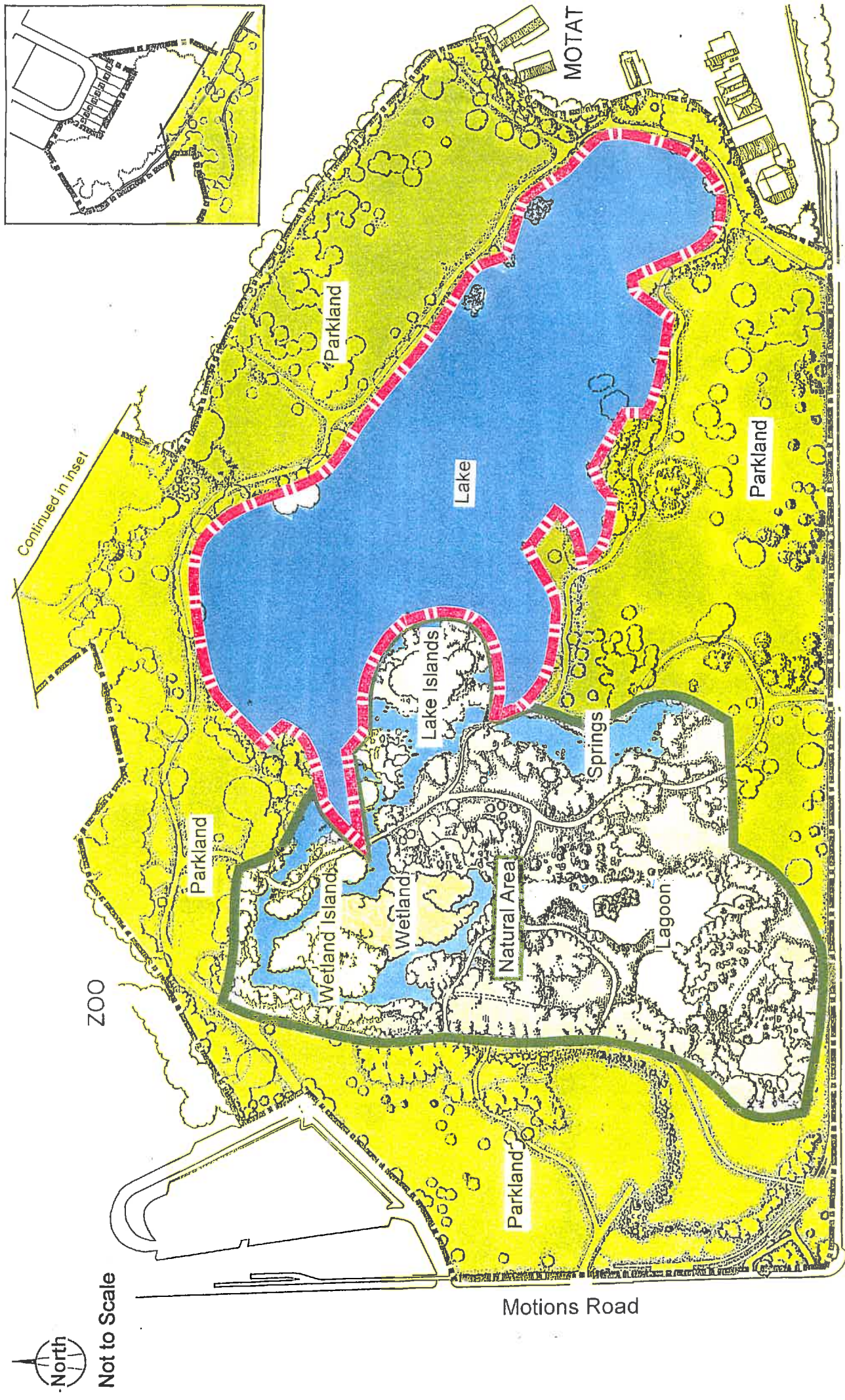


FIGURE 4 Character types



## 2.0

# VISUAL VALUES, ISSUES AND POLICIES

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## Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## **2.1 Visual Context**

### **2.1.1 Visual Context Values**

The term “visual context” refers to the visual relationship which exists between the Park and its adjoining areas. The four major activities in the Western Springs area - the Zoo, MOTAT, the Park and the Stadium - while owned by Auckland City, have all developed independently and are managed under separate regimes. In particular the Zoo, MOTAT and the Stadium are separate commercial entities. Consequently there has been a historical tendency for these facilities to back onto the Park with little regard for its visual amenity or function. These external influences affecting the Park are described below.

#### **2.1.1.1 Western Springs Stadium Frontage**

Western Springs Stadium, with its associated car parking and buildings, are visible through the scattered specimen trees along the boundary of the Park. The visual clutter of signs, red bollards, car/coach park and buildings are a discordant element along this edge, while the stadium floodlight towers are visible from many areas within the Park. At the northern end of the stadium's boundary the Auckland City Parks Department depot administration and storage facilities also contribute little to the visual amenity of this area. Improved integration and screening is needed.

#### **2.1.1.2 Zoo Frontage**

Generally the zoo boundary comprises a tall wire security fence. In two locations however, opportunities exist to enhance and frame views into animal enclosures. In addition to providing a visually interesting experience, this ‘borrowing’ of views from adjacent facilities has the potential of encouraging future visits to these facilities.

#### **2.1.1.3 The Great North Road and Motions Road Frontages**

The Park is bordered on two sides by roads. Motions Road to the south-west carries moderate volumes of traffic and also skirts the Zoo. Great North Road extends along the eastern edge of the Park and carries heavy volumes of traffic. Visual and noise intrusion from vehicles deters usage of the Park along this partially vegetated edge. Views into the Park along this frontage are important for road users, and opportunities exist to enhance and frame particular vistas, thus enhancing the travel experience and encouraging future visits.

#### **2.1.1.4 MOTAT Frontage**

The Museum of Transport and Technology sits at a higher level than the Park on its eastern boundary and tends to overlook the Park. A number of large storage sheds have been constructed within MOTAT on this boundary and these have little to recommend them when viewed from the Park. The Park itself is very narrow at this point, with limited opportunities for screening between the existing path and MOTAT. MOTAT's security fence and entrance to the Colonial Arms restaurant which face onto the Park are also of poor visual quality.

#### **2.1.1.5 Views of the Park from Other Locations**

From the Northwestern Motorway the Park is generally out of view except for the large block of mature pine trees planted within the Park on the steep embankment adjacent to the Stadium. These trees form a significant visual component of the view from the motorway travelling in either direction.

#### **2.1.2 Visual Context Issues**

- *The Park is affected by external influences, in particular man-made features.*
- *Many of the visible structures associated with both the Western Springs Stadium and MOTAT detract from the Park experience.*
- *Opportunities exist to "borrow" views from the Zoo and MOTAT.*
- *The views into the Park from its surrounding roads are important and need to be maintained.*

#### **2.1.3 Visual Context Policies**

**Policy 1**     *To screen external activities which detract from the amenity of the Park by way of plantings.*

##### ***Explanation***

*The visual relationship between the Park and adjoining activities needs to be improved by excluding less attractive views with screen planting.*

##### ***Implementation***

- *Screen plant along the following boundaries within the Park (as indicated on the concept plan [Figure 6]) :*
  - *Great North Road (while having regard to Policy 2);*
  - *Parks Department depot and Stadium car park;*
  - *Motions Road.*
- *Screen plant in areas adjacent to buildings within MOTAT, excluding the Pumphouse and 'Colonial Arms.*

**Policy 2**     *To protect specific views into the Park from Great North Road.*

##### ***Explanation***

*The travel experience along Great North Road is enhanced by views into the Park. A balance needs to be sought between excluding the view of traffic from the Park, and maintaining identified views into the Park.*

**Implementation**

- *Maintain views into the Park as identified on Figure 5.*

**Policy 3**      ***To frame specific views between the Park and adjacent activities.***

**Explanation**

*'Borrowing' attractive or interesting views from adjacent activities can have the effect of extending the Park's boundaries and has the potential benefit of promoting visits to these neighbouring venues, and vice versa.*

**Implementation**

- *Develop a series of techniques including planting, walls, windows and gateways to frame specific views between the Park and adjacent activities.*
- *This policy refers in particular to the following :*
  - *Zoo Elephant enclosure.*
  - *Zoo Giraffe enclosure.*
  - *historic water pumping station (located within MOTAT).*
  - *MOTAT 'Colonial Arms'.*

**Policy 4**      ***To discourage the establishment of any new external features or activities which would visually intrude upon the Park.***

**Explanation**

*Features, structures or activities which are conducted or located adjacent or otherwise near to the Park can have an adverse effect on the visual and landscape qualities of the Park.*

**Implementation**

- *Discourage the establishment of any structure or activity external to the Park which would detract from its recreational and visual values.*

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## Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## **2.2 Visual Amenity**

### **2.2.1 Introduction**

Western Springs Lakeside Park has evolved over the previous 35 years from an unkept and weed-infested wilderness area into the premier public Park that it is today. The elements of landform, water, planting and pathways combine to create a highly attractive and pleasurable landscape ideally suited to informal recreation.

### **2.2.2 Visual Character Areas and Values**

The Park is dominated by the lake and water edge environments but also contains an interesting variety of terrestrial landscapes. There are six of these environments in total (*Figure 5*). They are termed Visual Character Areas, and include :

- Grass areas with specimen trees.
- Areas of dense native vegetation, wetland and small open water bodies.
- The quarry face and associated enclosed space.
- The lake edge and small islands with a variety of native and amenity planting
- The pine forest area on the east side of Motions Creek.
- The extensive grassed area adjacent to Motions Road.

Each of these six visual character areas are briefly described below. Issues relating to each character area are listed in Section 2.2.3.

#### **2.2.2.1 Grass Areas With Specimen Trees**

The Park contains a number of extensive open areas of mown grass with occasional groups of specimen trees in the traditional English Parkland style. These provide multi-functional areas for informal recreation. They also permit extensive views into and across the Park. They provide a 'hard wearing' resource to accommodate a large number of visitors.

There are two toilet buildings present within this character area. The older of these is located on the path which leads to the depot and is of traditional style. The newer one is located adjacent to the children's play area and is a prototype self-cleaning type. Its more modern appearance is less consistent with the general character of the Park. Both could benefit from judicious specimen tree planting to assist their integration, although for reasons of safety shrubs and other close screening devices should be avoided.

#### **2.2.2.2     *Areas Of Dense Native Vegetation, Wetland And Small Open Water Bodies***

Concentrated primarily to the south-west of the main lake, this area comprises a 'natural area' of wetland and native forest. The spaces are small and intimate, defined by intricate landform and dense regenerating native vegetation. They are linked by appropriately low key paths which interconnect throughout the area.

The area serves both as an educational and recreational resource and relies on enclosure to create its specific character. In a number of locations the intimate and enclosed character of these areas is compromised by the intrusion of grassland.

The springs which feed the lake are located on the eastern fringe of this area. The spring fed pool has been partially edged with a stone wall as has the main lake. It is important that in this more natural area the new wall is softened with planting and discretely placed rocks.

#### **2.2.2.3     *The Quarry Face And Associated Enclosed Space***

The boundaries of this small, enclosed area are strongly delineated by the low sheer rock faces of the quarry walls. Toward Motions Road, however, the space is less contained and is affected by intrusion from traffic. The quarry walls are topped with low shrubby vegetation and to the north the enclosed space is bounded by a stand of large pohutukawa. In places the quarry wall has collapsed.

#### **2.2.2.4     *The Lake Edge And Small Islands With A Variety Of Native And Amenity Planting***

The land water interface is a highly attractive and popular part of the Park. The lake enjoys a varied edge with some wilderness areas, some parts enclosed with vegetation and some more open grassed areas.

The edge of the lake has recently been formalised around at least half of its length with a low stone wall which assists in bank control and maintenance. At present this is relatively stark in its newly constructed form although with age, planting and judicious placement of rocks both on the landward side and in the water this will become better integrated. The wall provides good access to the edge of the lake which is desirable particularly in the parkland area.

#### **2.2.2.5     *The Pine Forest On The East Side Of Motions Creek***

As the main visible feature of the Park from numerous locations in the wider locality this area is of particular significance. It comprises a relatively large stand of mature Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) which cloaks the relatively steep slope above Motions Creek. Many of the trees are now old and will deteriorate over the ensuing decade. A limited understorey of mainly native species including ponga and karo has begun to develop where trees have fallen allowing light to penetrate to the forest floor.

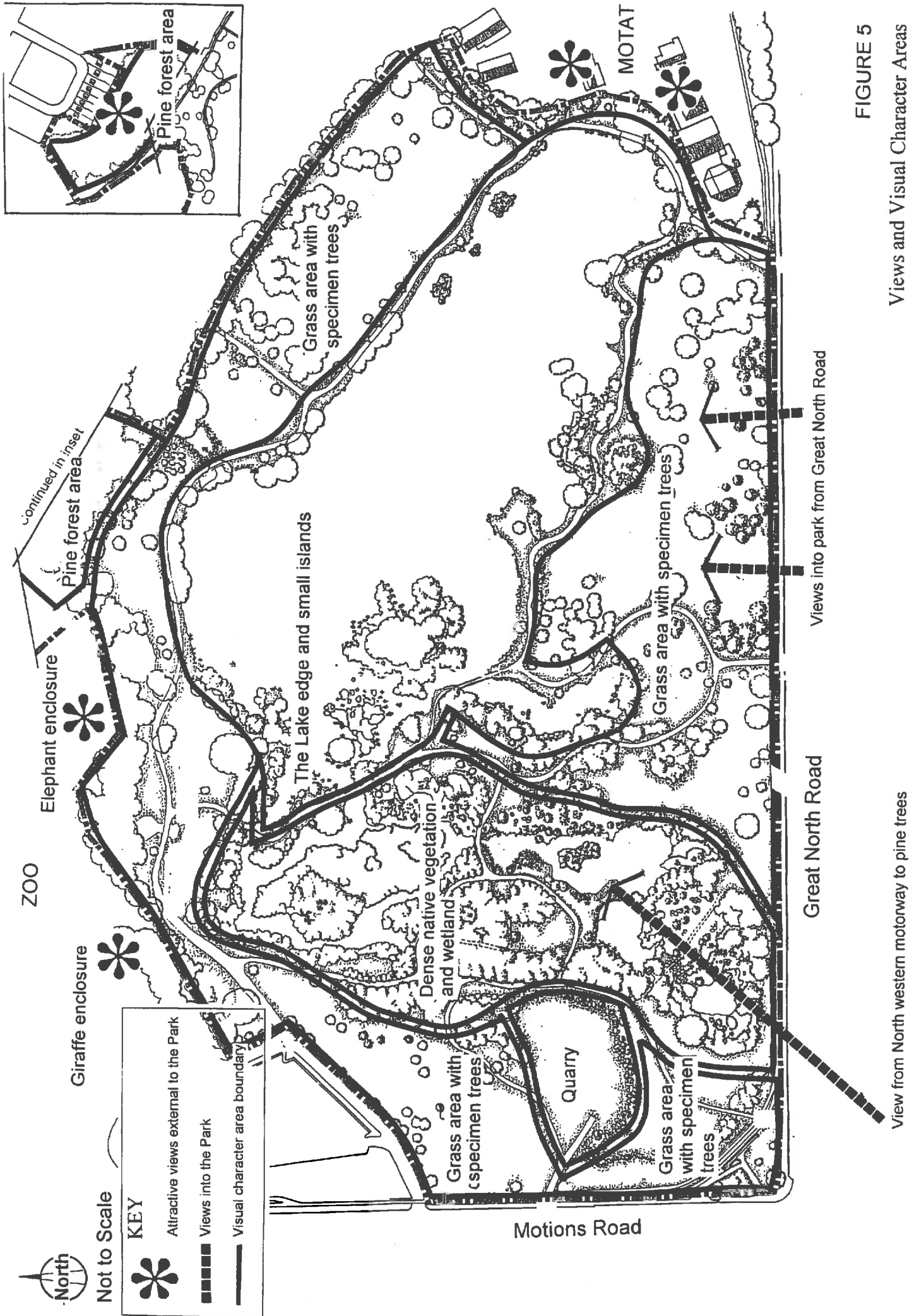


**FIGURE 5**  
Views and Visual Character Areas

#### **2.2.2.6     *The Extensive Grassed Area Adjacent To Motions Road***

This character area is isolated from the lake and main body of the Park. Its character is somewhat diverse being both an open grassed area with specimen trees but with more recently planted beds of native species. This reflects the general lack of certainty over the area's function as an integral component of the Park.

As with other areas on the periphery of the Park, external activities have a significant impact on the amenity of this area, which lacks definition particularly along its edges. In addition, Motions Road and the car park adjacent to the Zoo entrance intrude visually into the area.

### **2.2.3   Visual Character Area Issues**

#### **2.2.3.1     *Grass Area with Specimen Trees***

- *Weak spatial definition of areas.*
- *Conflicts of use activities with adjoining visual character areas.*
- *Lack of visual enframing and focusing of views from Great North Road.*
- *Intrusion from external activities.*
- *Poor visual integration of the existing toilet buildings with the general character of the area.*

#### **2.2.3.2     *Areas of Dense Native Vegetation, Wetland and Small Open Water Bodies***

- *Conflicts of use activities with adjoining visual character areas.*
- *Maintenance and enhancement of natural character.*
- *Natural water edge conversion to stone wall.*
- *Maintenance of water access and views.*

#### **2.2.3.3     *The Quarry Face and Associated Enclosed Space***

- *Intrusion from external activities.*
- *Weak spatial definition along western edge.*
- *The quarry wall is not entirely stable.*

#### **2.2.3.4     *The Lake Edge and Small Islands with a Variety of Native and Amenity Planting***

- *Maintenance of lake edge variety and habitat.*
- *Treatment of lake edge (ie. conversion to stone wall) is not always in keeping with the adjacent visual character area.*
- *Maintenance of water access and views.*

#### **2.2.3.5     *The Pine Forest on the East Side of Motions Creek***

- *Importance of the mature tree cover as a landmark.*
- *Deterioration of the trees in the near future.*
- *Selection of replacement species.*



PLATE 1 : THE NATIVE BUSH AND WETLAND AREA



PLATE 2 : THE LAKE EDGE

#### **2.2.3.6 The Extensive Grassed Area Adjacent to Motions Road**

- *Weak spatial definition of areas.*
- *Conflicts of use with adjoining character areas.*
- *Isolation and lack of defined function.*
- *Impacts from activities external to the Park.*

#### **2.2.4 Visual Character Area Policies**

**Policy 5** *To manage the visual character areas with regard to opportunities for their enhancement.*

##### ***Explanation***

*Each of the visual character areas require a range of management techniques in order to realise their full aesthetic and amenity potential.*

##### ***Implementation***

- *Management of each of the visual character areas will be undertaken in such a manner so as to ensure:*
  - *maintenance and enhancement of their function.*
  - *improved spatial definition of these areas.*
  - *maintenance and enhancement of their character.*
  - *minimisation of impacts from external activities.*
- *Where the natural lakeside edge has been converted to stone wall soften this boundary in the western, eastern and southern lake shores by either:*
  - *planting of appropriate native rushes, sedges and / or shrubs.*
  - *placement of boulders along the top of the walls.*
  - *placement of boulder banks sloping outwards from the top of the walls down to the lake bed.*
  - *a combination of all or some of these.*
- *Only convert the natural lake edge to stone walls where native plantings of rushes and reeds are not feasible. Where such conversion occurs utilise the "edge softening" methods listed above. Conversion to stone walls should not take place within the natural area if at all avoidable.*
- *Plant appropriate species in accordance with the concept plan (Figure 6).*
- *Accommodate other policies (in particular those in the "Ecology" and the "Interpretation and Education" sections) when selecting species to plant.*

- *Plant pohutukawa along the frontage adjoining Great North Road, at spacings equivalent to that existing on the other side of the road.*
- *Ensure that the plantings along the margins of Motions Creek do not preclude greater public enjoyment of this waterway once its water quality has improved.*
- *Undertake judicious planting of appropriate specimen trees around each toilet block. For reasons of safety, do not use shrubs or other close screening devices.*

**Policy 6**      ***To retain the significant views within the Park.***

***Explanation***

*There are many vantage points within the Park from which significant views of the internal features and areas can be gained. These views should be respected when undertaking planting programmes.*

*In addition, there are two built features (both toilets) which are aesthetically unpleasant and detract from views both within and of the open grass area. These two features require remedial attention.*

***Implementation***

- *Within the Parkland area the significant views to protect are those which will include the new features of the Park as described in this plan (see Section 3.2). By adhering to the planting areas as generally outlined in the Concept Plan (Figure 6) internal views will be maintained.*
- *Within the natural area of the Park the existing views to protect are :*
  - *those which are obtained from pathways immediately adjoining water (either the lake or wetland channels).*
  - *the view of the wetland island to be obtained from an open rocky area just off the south west pathway.*
  - *the view of the lagoon to be obtained from the small promontory jutting out into it.*

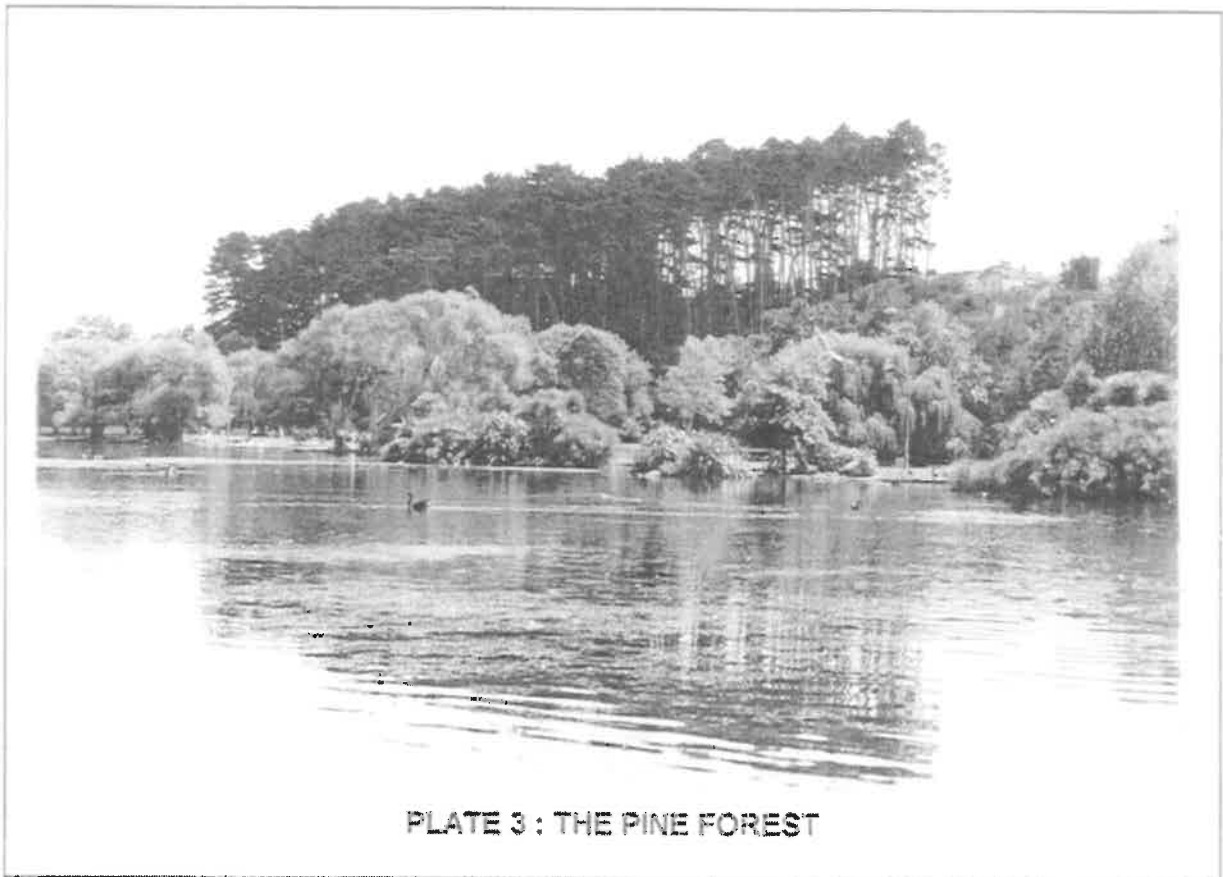
**Policy 7**      ***To progressively replace the pine trees adjoining the Western Springs Stadium with a native podocarp forest.***

***Explanation***

*In terms of maintaining visual values it is necessary to underplant these pines with species which, upon maturity, will be as equally visually dominant upon this skyline. The long term goal should be to return this area to native forest. It would be appropriate (in landscape and visual terms) to replant the area with native podocarp species which retain a "pole" form for many years.*

*Implementation*

- *Plant a podocarp-kauri forest beneath the pines.*
- *The species will include kauri, totara, miro, rimu and (on the lower slopes) kahikatea.*
- *As these natives increase in size the overtopping pines may be selectively (and carefully) felled.*



**Key**

- Specimen Tree Planting
- Shrub Planting
- Native forest Planting
- Single species avenue planting
- Raupo wetland
- Edge of water
- Seat location
- Existing events information signage
- Primary path network
- Secondary path network
- Unmade paths
- Boardwalk
- Park entrance



## 3.0

# RECREATIONAL VALUES, ISSUES AND POLICIES



### 3.1 Recreation

#### 3.1.1 Recreational Use and Values

Prior to the preparation of this plan a user survey was undertaken in the Park using face to face interviews. Two interviewers were used over two days in December 1994. A total of 337 interviews were recorded.

A synopsis of the information drawn from the responses to the user survey is outlined below. The recreational survey data is available from Council.

More than half of the respondents were resident within the Western Bays area of Auckland City. Even so the majority (three quarters) travelled to the Lakeside by car.

Approximately three quarters of respondents travelled to Western Springs Lakeside for the sole purpose of visiting the Park, and there appears to be little correlation between visits to MOTAT, the Zoo and the Park. Frequently cited was the comment that the Park is valuable as a free recreational resource for local people. This is probably a reaction to the fact that the Zoo and MOTAT, although located on Council land, are run as separate commercial enterprises for which an entrance fee is charged.

The survey showed a balance between male and female visitors, and that a predominant number of visitors were between the ages of 26-40. The remainder of respondents were evenly distributed between the 15-25 and 41-60 age groups.

The dominance of visitors in the 26-40 age group range is partially a reflection of the relatively high percentage of mothers who visit the Park with their children during the day. This trend is also reflected in the high percentage of respondents citing play, use of play equipment and feeding ducks as their main reason(s) for visiting the Park.

The Park is seen by many visitors as a place of peace and quiet relaxation - as is demonstrated by the 42% of respondents who visit the Park for the purposes of walking and relaxation. Generally the uses cited by respondents were of a passive or informal nature, with few people apparently visiting the Park specifically for exercise.

Most respondents tended to visit the Park on a regular basis, with nearly 60% visiting at least once a week. Use of the Park during the day peaks slightly between 11.00-5.00 and tails away between the hours of 7.00-8.00 pm. Nevertheless overall use is relatively constant. Surprisingly, usage varied little between weekdays and weekends. However, this pattern might be expected to change during the winter months.

Nearly 30% of those who expressed a preference were satisfied with the existing Park situation. However, a wide range of suggestions for improving the Park were offered by respondents. The most frequent comments concerned the maintenance of the Park, particularly the cleanliness of the lake and footpaths alongside the lake. Other repeated comments related to the provision of facilities (eg. food sales, toilets and seating).

Consultation was undertaken with the three schools in the area (Pasedena High School, Westmere School and Western Springs College) to determine present use patterns and aspirations for future use.

All three schools used the Park for scientific/ecological studies at a variety of levels and expressed interest in additional interpretation, both in terms of signs and access facilities (eg. boardwalks). Provision of shelter for on-site teaching was also felt to be of benefit, although an informal structure was preferred to a designated classroom. All schools expressed interest in occasional 'hands on' activities within the Park, such as tree planting.

One of the schools used the Park for a wider range of activities, including organised runs and informal non-scientific teaching in the open air.

Events held within the Park are restricted to major regular events (eg. Pasifika), or those organised by the Council. In 1995 two events have been programmed - the Pasifika Festival and a smaller musical event to be held in the Quarry area. Historically, the Quarry was used in 1985 and 1986 to house the 'Stone Sculpture Symposium', from which much of the sculpture located within the Park originated.

There are no leases, licences or concessions currently operating in the Park although the Zoo operates a small food store located on the boundary between the Zoo and Park, adjacent to the barbecues and accessible from the Park.

Submissions showed the need for the plan to state a position on recreational fishing.

### **3.1.2 Recreational Issues**

- *While the primary purpose of the Park is for informal recreation and associated low key activities (ie. walking, picnicking, relaxing, bird watching and feeding the waterfowl) there are periodic requests for special events and/or activities. Criteria need to be developed against which to assess these requests.*
- *Despite the lake being a prominent feature of the Park there are no existing opportunities for on-the-water experiences (eg. boardwalks and viewing decks which extend out over the lake).*
- *Concern has been expressed at the apparent overfeeding of the waterfowl, which discourages them from feeding on water weed and periodically results in much waste bread being left floating on the lake surface.*
- *Provision for limited forms of recreational fishing is desirable,*
- *Some informal recreation activities, while not being mutually exclusive, have the potential to cause conflict if undertaken in the same area (eg. cycling, jogging, walking and exercising dogs).*
- *There is the possibility that organised sport (even if only social) may displace the primary informal recreation function of the Park.*

- *While the primary purpose of the Park is for informal recreation, there are periodic requests for concessions and leases (and the erection of associated structures) to be granted for a variety of activities (eg. paddle boats on the lake). Criteria need to be developed against which to assess these requests.*



PLATE 4 : INFORMAL FAMILY RECREATION

### 3.1.3 Recreational Policies

*Policy 8 To maintain and encourage informal and passive recreational use and ensure that organised recreational pursuits do not displace these activities.*

#### *Explanation*

*The Park is primarily a focus for informal recreational activity and is highly valued as such by many people.*

*Informal and low key activities such as walking, relaxing and bird watching are the predominant recreational uses. It is important to ensure that these are not displaced by other more active or organised activities.*

**Implementation**

- *The Park will remain as freely available open space for the informal recreational use and enjoyment of all visitors.*
- *Any sports, whether by professional, amateur or social teams, which :*
  - *require permanent fields and markings; and/or*
  - *establish a need for regular use of car parking; and/or*
  - *require exclusive occupation of an unreasonably large area; and/or*
  - *are noisy in nature; and/or*
  - *are likely to periodically or occasionally "spill over" out of the area of play, and thereby disrupt other Park users -*

*are not permitted.*
- *Activities which may temporarily affect informal recreational use of the Park will only be permitted where they comply with the provisions of policies 10 and / or 11.*

**Policy 9**      ***To provide for a variety of informal recreational pursuits while respecting the needs and values of all users.***

**Explanation**

*There is some use made of the Park by cyclists. Pedestrian circulation within the Park has priority however. In addition, many people exercise their dogs within the Park. This creates the potential for conflict either between dogs, between dogs and people, or between dogs and wildlife.*

**Implementation**

- *Cyclists are permitted within the Park provided that they :*
  - *use only the pathways; and*
  - *do not travel at speed; and*
  - *give way wherever necessary to pedestrians.*
- *Dogs must be controlled at all times (ie. be on a leash) but are permitted on all pathways and fields of the Park.*
- *Appropriate signage will be provided.*
- *Compliance is required with all relevant Council bylaws.*

*Policy 10 To provide for short term special events.*

*Explanation*

*It is important to ensure that while short term special events are provided for they do not displace informal recreational uses of the Park. Criteria are needed to assess the appropriateness or otherwise of special events.*

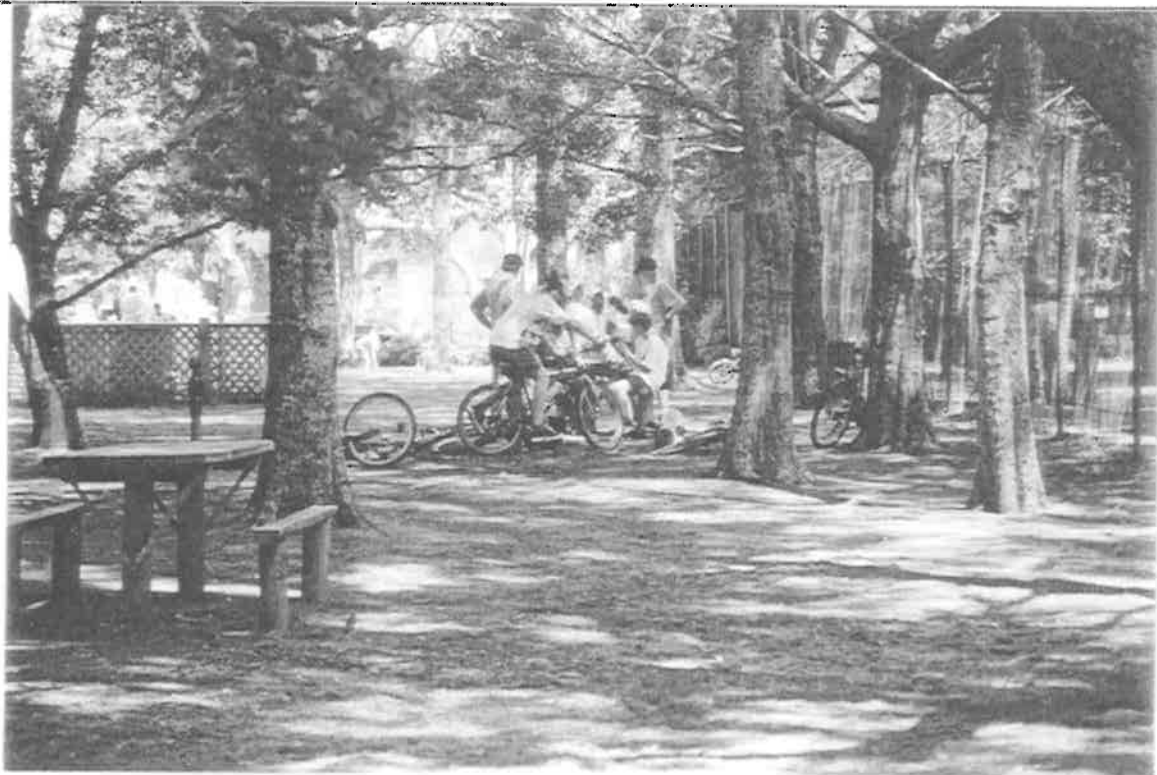


PLATE 5 : THE PARK IS POPULAR WITH CYCLISTS

*Implementation*

- *Two areas will be provided for use as venues for special events, being :*
  - *the quarry; and*
  - *the grassed area between the lake and Motions Creek, including the proposed band rotunda.*
- *Proposals for special events will be assessed against the following criteria :*
  - *events must be of public interest and value.*
  - *events must be consistent with informal recreation and the traditional landscape values of the Park.*
  - *there must be no conflict with the Park's ecological values.*

- *there must be no long term occupation or utilisation of any part of the Park.*
- *there must be no conflict with any other Auckland City policies.*
- *There must be full compliance with all conditions Council attaches to the permit allowing the special event.*

**Policy 11**      **To discourage commercial activities from operating within the Park.**

**Explanation**

*Commercial activity which would permanently occupy otherwise public space within the Park is not appropriate. Even where such exclusive occupation would be minor it is considered that commercial activities would result in other adverse effects, in particular noise and litter generation as well as landscape, aesthetic and intrinsic impacts.*

**Implementation**

- *No concessions or leases shall be granted for commercial activities with the exception of temporary concessions or leases for commercial activities which are associated with temporary special events approved by Council pursuant to Policy 10.*
- *The activities to which any such temporary concessions or leases may apply must fulfil the following criteria :*
  - *be wholly compatible and entirely in keeping with the nature and intent of the temporary event.*
  - *be of a character which does not place pressure upon nor pose a threat to any of the ecological or conservation values of the Park.*
  - *be of a short term duration not exceeding the duration of the temporary special event it is to be associated with.*
  - *be of a form and structural nature which will enable the concession or lease holder to return the site to its original state by the expiry term of the concession or lease.*
- *There must be full compliance with all conditions which Council may attach to any such temporary concessions or leases.*

**Policy 12**      **To utilise the lake for on-the-water experiences.**

**Explanation**

*In order to optimise the informal recreational experiences at the Park some on-the-water experience opportunities should be provided.*

**Implementation**

- *Establish boardwalks (with viewing platforms) which would extend for short distances out over the lake.*
- *Particulars of the boardwalk location and design are discussed in the section of this plan dealing with Buildings and Structures.*

**Policy 13**     ***To dissuade the public from overfeeding the waterfowl.***

**Explanation**

*One of the popular activities undertaken at the Park is feeding the ducks and swans. This activity results in bread being left floating on the lake surface. This detracts from aesthetic values, and furthermore, discourages these birds from eating as much water weed as they would normally do. While feeding the waterfowl should still be permitted the public should be encouraged not to feed them so much.*

**Implementation**

- *Include in some of the interpretive material available the issue of overfeeding the waterfowl.*

**Policy 14**     ***To permit limited forms of recreational fishing within the park.***

**Explanation**

*Another activity popular with small children is exploring the lake edge with small scoop nets. While this level of fishing activity is appropriate to the low key recreational focus of the Park, more intensive forms are not*

**Implementation**

- *The use of small hand held scoop nets by young children is permitted provided that any fish, tadpole or other animal so caught is returned to the lake immediately.*
- *All other forms of fishing are not permitted within the Park.*

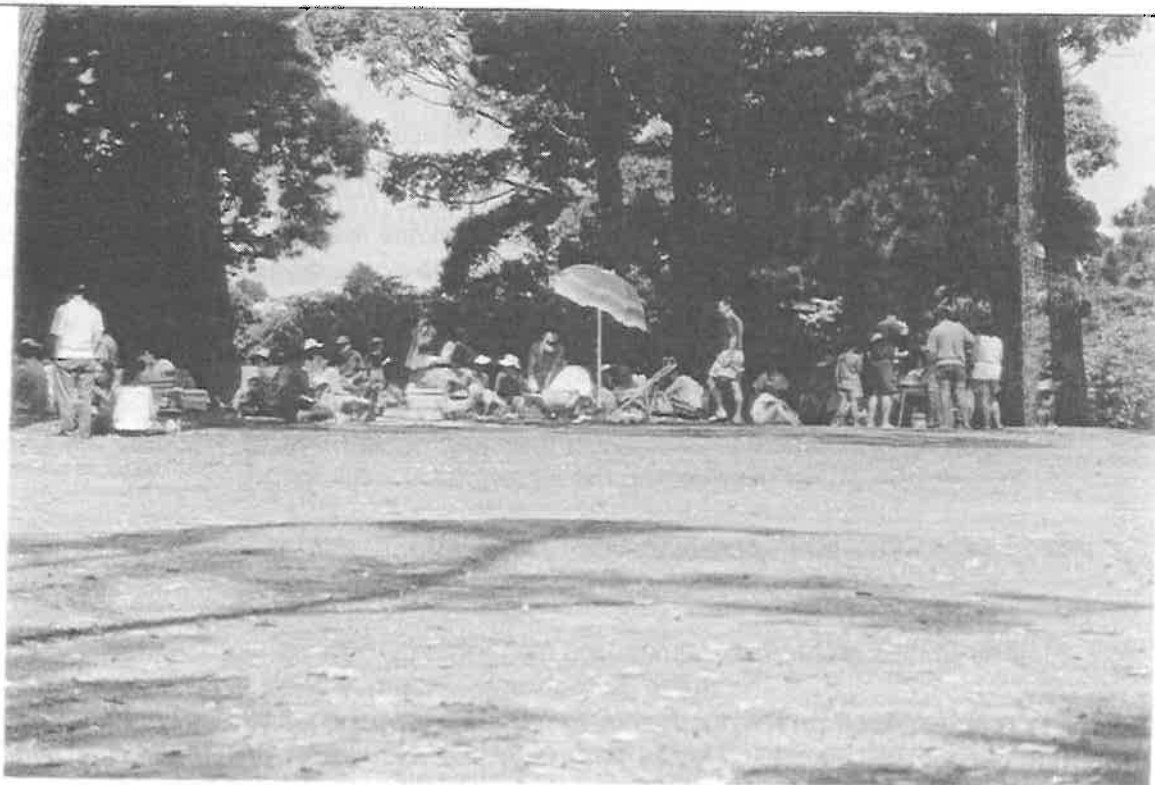


PLATE 6 : THE PARK IS A POPULAR PICNIC AREA

## **3.2 Buildings and Structures**

### **3.2.1 Existing Buildings and Structures**

The Park contains very few buildings or structures. There are three bridges and two weirs at various locations, all of which provide significant attractions (especially to children). In particular the distinctive two hump bridge is enjoyed by many visitors to the Park. These structures also provide good vantage points for duck feeding and viewing over the lake. There are two toilet buildings present also. However, these have been dealt with in Section 2.2 of this plan and are not discussed here.

### **3.2.2 New Buildings and Structures**

Consultations and submissions during the preparation of the plan determined that few additional structures should be provided in the park. Strong opposition was expressed to lookout towers and band rotundas. Interpretation and use of the Park and its values are capable of being provided for in other ways. New structures will include :

- Water proximity experiences (ie. boardwalks and viewing platforms).
- A main (feature) entrance structure coupled with a tram stop of modest design and proportion.

As a general principle, buildings and structures should be complementary to the open space qualities of the Park. This is achieved by ensuring design which is appropriate to the site and which is unified throughout.

The locations for the limited structures are shown on the concept plan (Figure 6) and these are outlined below.

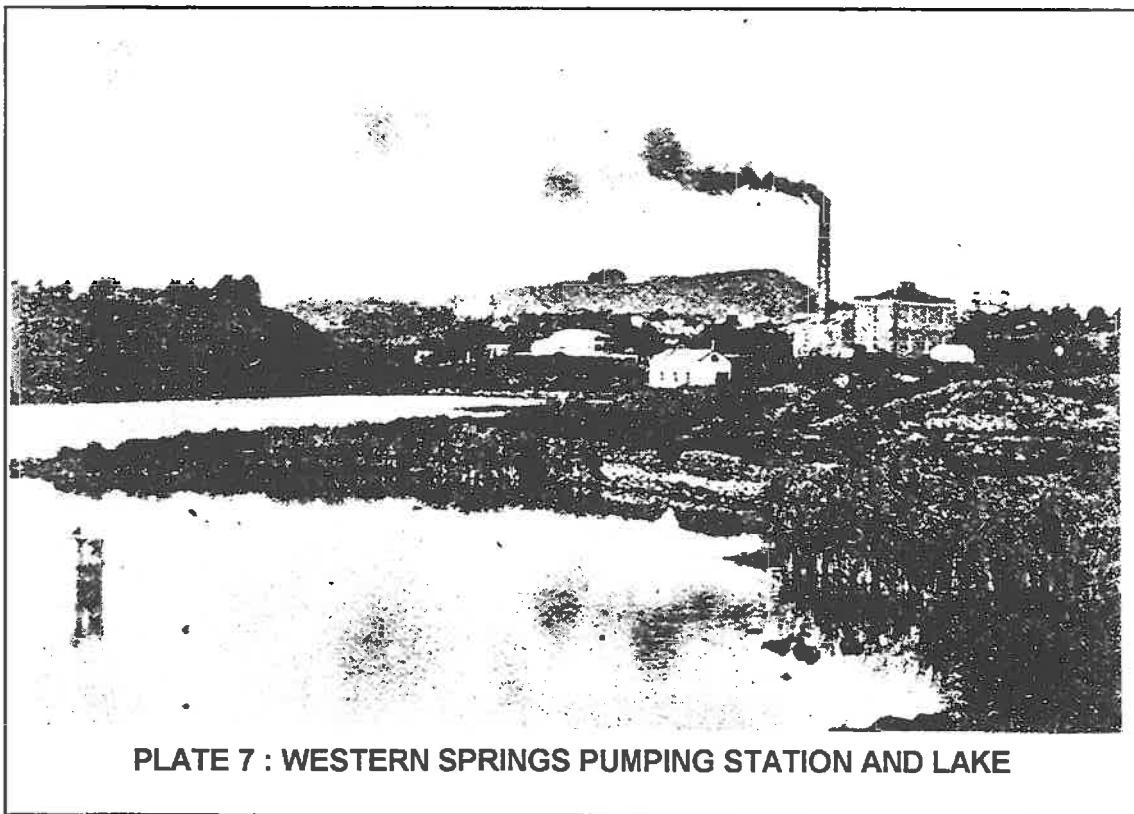
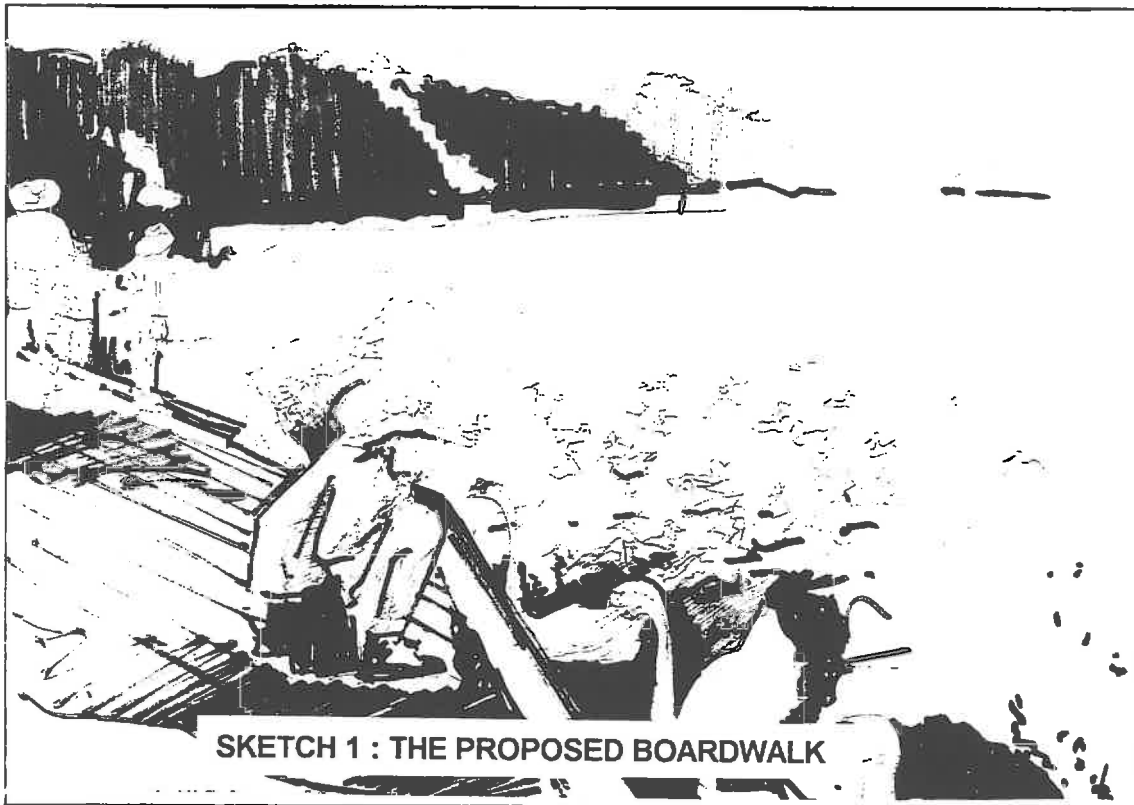
#### **3.2.2.1 Boardwalks and Viewing Platforms**

At the western end of the lake an opportunity exists to construct a boardwalk which provides a progression from lakeside to water, and then back to lakeside, thus enabling visitors to obtain a closer water experience. In addition, the progression through ecological habitats of varying character will create potential educational opportunities. It is important that this boardwalk does not provide access to the islands for predators. To prevent this a minimum distance of 3 metres from the island edge must be maintained.

At the opposite end of the lake, adjacent to MOTAT, it is proposed that a boardwalk be constructed in conjunction with the creation of an artificial island. This will create an 'island' and water proximity experience at both ends of the lake. The boardwalk will pass through planted reedland sequences of various types, and the artificial island will be planted with appropriate native species (including carex sedges, native toetoe, flax, cabbage tree, kahikatea and shrubs).

Both boardwalks will contain a an area from which visitors will gain panoramic views of the length of the lake.

Sketch 1 gives an illustration of the type of boardwalk envisaged.



### **3.2.2.2 Tram Stop Entrance**

The central Great North Road entrance is currently important as a consequence of car parking along both sides of the road edge. Opportunities exist here to strengthen both this entrance as well as the links between the tram line and the Park by moving the current (little used) tram stop at the Great North Road/Motions Road junction to provide a Park entrance 'feature' tram stop.

This entrance 'feature' tram stop could be simple and similar in design to the historical stone entrance structure associated with the Horticultural Centre near The Western Springs Garden Restaurant on Great North Road.

### **3.2.2 Buildings and Structures Issues**

- *The limited number of buildings and structures proposed in this plan are considered appropriate. For any proposals for additional buildings and structures, there are criteria against which to assess such requests.*

### **3.2.3 Buildings and Structures Policies**

**Policy 15** *To appropriately design and construct the following buildings and structures :*

- *Boardwalks, and a small artificial island*
- *Feature tram stop entrance*

#### ***Explanation***

*The boardwalks seek to offer a close water experience, and to make the visit both educational and interesting by enabling passage through a progression of different habitats to open water.*

*The tram stop entrance will be of a design sensitive to its environs and will serve as the main (or feature) entrance point into the Park.*

#### ***Implementation***

- *Undertake specific siting studies for the boardwalks and tram stop entrance, having regard to the potential locations as presented in the concept plan (figure 6).*
- *Undertake design studies for these buildings and structures so as to achieve an identity worthy of a Premier Park.*

**Policy 16**     *To ensure that any future additional buildings or structures are complementary to the values and qualities of the Park.*

**Explanation**

*There may be some future proposal(s) to locate additional buildings and/or structures within the Park. Accordingly, criteria are needed against which to assess the appropriateness or otherwise of any such proposals.*

**Implementation**

- *Assess all future proposals for additional structures and/or buildings against the following criteria :*
  - *the need for the structure to be within the Park.*
  - *the need for the structure to be sited in the location identified.*
  - *the protection of conservation or heritage values and views from disturbance.*
  - *the maintenance of the Park's character.*
  - *the contribution of the structure to the quality and experience of the Park.*
  - *the particular design and its relationship to the Park character.*
  - *the public benefit to be obtained from the structure.*
  - *impact on the immediate neighbourhood.*
  - *an ability to meet relevant District Plan requirements.*
  - *an ability to meet the objective and policies of this plan.*
- *Ensure that the following is achieved in relation to all future buildings and/or structures :*
  - *design which is appropriate to the site and consistent with both the character of the Park and all other existing structures and buildings.*
  - *locations appropriate to the function of the structure.*

### 3.3 Site Furniture, Facilities and Signs

#### 3.3.1 Description

Site furniture and facilities include items such as play equipment, signs, seating, fencing, bollards, rubbish bins, drinking fountains, barbecues, sculptures and lighting. Although small in scale, these elements can reinforce the character and identity of a reserve or visually degrade and conflict with the area.

In general, the design of site furniture in the Park is of a good and consistent standard. Some elements have previously been painted an olive green which is a successfully low key and sympathetic colour. The location of site furniture in the Park is often less successful. In a number of instances seats which once overlooked a view now have that view obscured by vegetation. In some cases seats need to be removed and in others the vegetation managed to maintain the view.

Currently a number of styles of litter bin are used within the Park. One form and colour should be selected and their location determined by the functional aspects of the different areas of the Park.

Lighting within the Park currently consists of standard street lights located at strategic locations, particularly path junctions. While the design of lighting is consistent, it is inappropriate to the character of the Park.

The chosen design for barbecues within the Park includes a small fenced off area so that each barbecue enclosure has a discrete appearance. There are opportunities to improve the aesthetic qualities and integration of these facilities. One barbecue has been located along the Great North Road frontage. Development of this area for barbecues will result in conflict with both natural and recreational values.

The children's play area is of sufficient size to meet demand and should not be expanded. An appropriate standard of equipment and maintenance is required.

In 1985 and 1986, a 'Stone Symposium', was held for prominent sculptors in the Quarry adjacent to Motions Road. As a result, several stone sculptures were acquired by the Council following the events and located within the Park. Preceding these events a marble table was commissioned by "Artworks", designed by Campbell Leaving Ewing and located in the Great North Road area of the park. Stone is an appropriate material in the context of the park and its furniture.

#### 3.3.2 Site Furniture, Facilities and Signs Issues

- *The Park's existing furniture and facilities do not present a coherent unity of design nor contribute to the overall quality of the Park as a recreational environment.*
- *Occasional poor location of seats and barbecues.*

- *Signs, although limited, are mixed in appearance and tend to be concentrated on lighting columns, thereby exaggerating the range of styles.*
- *While the design of the entry signs provides continuity with other Council facilities in the area, the colour scheme is unsympathetic to the natural values of the Park.*
- *The role of the children's play area and equipment standards need to be specified.*
- *Signs for the walking network in the wider context of the Western Springs/Meola Reef area will need to be co-ordinated.*
- *Stone can be incorporated in furniture design.*

### **3.3.3 Site Furniture, Facilities and Signs Policies**

**Policy 17**     *To adopt a unified approach to the design of site furniture, facilities and signs.*

#### ***Explanation***

*A unified design approach to all site furniture, facilities and signs, located and maintained to meet the needs of Park users, is essential to convey an image of quality inherent in a Premier Park. Some existing seats need to be relocated and the role and location of children's play and sculptures need to be regularised.*

#### ***Implementation***

- *Apply high standards of design and materials to site furniture and facilities :*
  - *Seating        :    Use timber slat seats as currently provided in the park, or timber and stone seats following commissioned designs.*
  - *Litter bins    :    Adopt the same or similar style of litter bins as the standard for the Park with colour to reflect the Park's natural values.*
  - *Lights         :    Adopt a low level lighting style for the Park with a metallised dark grey finish, or commission a special design for the park.*
  - *Barbecues    :    Construct barbecue surrounds from undressed stone.*
- *Relocate seats which have an obscured view.*

- *Continue to provide children's play equipment at current levels in the same location, and ensure a high standard of maintenance, both of play equipment and of the bark mulch beneath.*
- *Maintain all sculptures in their current locations or assess new proposals in accordance with the criteria in Policy 16.*



PLATE 8 : STONE SURROUNDS TO BARBECUES

**Policy 18**     *To rationalise and expand the barbecue facilities.*

**Explanation**

*The existing barbecues in the Park are popular among visitors, and their expansion into the area adjacent to Motions Road is considered to be appropriate in terms of location. Some limited car parking in association with this area is desirable. Two areas are proposed, each of approximately 6 parks.*

**Implementation**

- *Locate more barbecues within the south western corner of the Park near Motions Road and provide two areas of limited car parking not exceeding six carparks with no commitment to expand them in the future.*
- *Relocate the barbecue which has been sited along the Great North Road frontage.*

**Policy 19**     *To develop a standard system for all Park signs.*

**Explanation**

*Ease of recognition, unity of design and a reduced diversity of sign design can be achieved by standardising signs within the Park. Sign design should reflect that which is used in the Zoo and MOTAT with a view to enhancing the perception of a more unified Western Springs recreational area.*

**Implementation**

- *Standardise all Park signs based on the existing form of signs, but using a new colour scheme related to the more natural values of the Park.*
- *Design the signs to be compatible with those at the Zoo and MOTAT.*
- *Use the Park's standardised sign system in any future walkways involving the Park.*

**Policy 20**     *To ensure that the childrens playground is maintained to meet the needs of park users.*

**Implementation**

- *Regular maintenance will ensure that the area and equipment satisfy NZ Safety Standards, the area is kept dry in winter and shaded in summer and seats are in good condition for adult supervision.*

## **3.4 Access and Circulation**

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

Access and circulation include a number of issues. These are discussed below under the four headings of entrances, pedestrian circulation, parking and physical links. The latter refers to access and circulation links between the Park and its adjoining facilities, in particular the Zoo and MOTAT.

#### **3.4.1.1 Entrances**

Eight pedestrian entrances are located around the perimeter of the Park. The appearance of these entrances is low key. However, distinctive signboards and maps have recently been installed at some of the entrances, making them more obvious.

The entrance into the Park from the Stadium car park has the potential in the future to become more important if the provision of car parking and directional signage from Great North Road is improved. It would be beneficial, therefore, to develop this entrance as a more important feature. The Stadium car park is currently poorly structured with a confusing array of signs and bollards. Any improvement works on this entrance should be undertaken in consultation with MOTAT and the Stadium management.

The Park entrance off Motions Road serving both the Zoo and Park is currently a vehicular entrance only, comprising a road without a footpath. The road width and low barriers make this access hazardous and uninviting for pedestrians.

The Park entrance off West View Road does not yet have the distinctive entry signboard. In addition, it is difficult to find, with no signs off Old Mill Road. With little provision for parking in this residential area, the currently low key nature of this entrance should be retained.

#### **3.4.1.2 Pedestrian Circulation**

The most frequently trafficked pathway within the Park traces the lake edge and is used both by pedestrians and cyclists. This path is of adequate width and has a hotmix surface. Other paths in the Park have a variety of characters, including simple unformed tracks in some parts of the natural area.

The "*Western Springs Open Space Corridor Proposal*" (Jan 1992) recommended that a comprehensive walkway network be incorporated into Auckland City's strategic plan. Consultation will ensure that future proposals for footpath networks outside the Western Springs Lakeside Park are incorporated within the Park's circulation pattern and signs.

#### **3.4.1.3 Parking**

The majority of visitors rely on their own vehicular transport to travel to the Park. Parking occurs in four main locations:

- along Great North Road.
- in the car park adjacent to The Western Springs Garden Restaurant.
- in the Zoo car park.
- in Stadium Road (the main access to the Stadium from Great North Road).

Addressing the problem of inadequate parking space is an issue also shared by the Zoo, MOTAT and the Stadium and was discussed in the Working Party Report "*Draft Western Springs Transport Study*" (July 1993). In this document additional parking was proposed within the sports fields adjacent to the stadium, to be used by visitors to the stadium, MOTAT and the Park. Also suggested was the formalisation of proposed parking areas in Motions Road with public transport linkage including extension of the tram system to link all attractions/facilities in the Western Springs area.

The Council's Western Springs Garden Restaurant parking area could also receive greater use.

### **3.4.1.4 Physical Links**

Currently physical linkages between the various facilities in the area are poor. Historically the Stadium, Zoo, Park and MOTAT have developed independently with little regard for each other, and the opportunity exists to improve linkages between them. However, this must be weighed against a shift in public perception of the Park which may result from more direct links with MOTAT and the Zoo. At present the Park is enjoyed and greatly valued as a freely available open space.

Detailed design will be required to resolve any internal circulation problems should access be established between each facility. If this improved linkage eventuates there will be a need to link promotion, signage and specific transport facilities to the area.

- *Physical linkage to the external network of paths and proposals for district and regional systems of paths contained in reports available to the Council such as the Western City Walkway proposals, is desirable. Such linkages should be facilitated providing that the needs of park users are considered and the quantum of walkways within the park are not increased.*

### **3.4.2 Access and Circulation Issues**

- *There is no formal path hierarchy for the Park's internal track network - this could result in inappropriately sized or designed paths in certain areas.*
- *There is no well lit night time route through the Park.*
- *Disabled persons use the Park and their special needs will have to be accommodated within parking and circulation design.*
- *Park entrances are not particularly visible.*
- *Lack of sufficient parking to meet demand is an ongoing problem for the Western Springs area.*

- *There is a need to integrate all recreational facilities within the Western Springs area, however, this requires to be balanced against the public enjoyment of the Park for informal leisure activities.*
- *Future walking networks may wish to include the Park within their routes.*

### **3.4.3 Access and Circulation Policies**

**Policy 21**     *To improve pedestrian accessibility and entrances to the park.*

**Explanation**

*There is no vehicle access within the Park. This is an attribute which is important to maintain. Some Park entrance areas and the entrances themselves need to be improved and emphasised for the benefit of pedestrian access.*

**Implementation**

- *Rationalise the existing conflict between pedestrian flows and vehicles at the Motions Road entrance with a paved pedestrian path.*
- *Maintain the West View Road entrance (ie the feature tram stop) in its current form.*
- *Construct the Great North Road entrance as established under Policy 15..*
- *Standardise all other entrances in structure and colour and introduce more prominent signs.*
- *Allow for small service and maintenance vehicle access only at selected entrances.*
- *Improve signage and pedestrian linkage across Great North Road to encourage increased use of the Western Springs Garden Restaurant.*
- *No mechanised transport system will be permitted to operate within the Park (excluding the existing tramway on the Park periphery).*

**Policy 22**     *To provide for an appropriate and safe network of paths for all users.*

**Explanation**

*Pedestrian access within the Park needs to be appropriate, safe and certain in the way in which it can be used.*

### **Implementation**

- *Implement a hierarchy of paths with the following characteristics (refer Figure 7) :*
  - *primary paths to be a minimum of 2.0 metres wide and sealed.*
  - *secondary paths to be a minimum of 600 mm wide and to be sealed or covered with gravel or bark as appropriate to the location.*
  - *other existing informal and unpaved tracks to form the tertiary path network.*
- *Wherever possible the primary network is to meet route criteria for disabled access in accordance with NZS 4121 1985.*
- *For safety at night the primary path network is to be lit with low level bollard lights spaced at intervals appropriate to the location.*
- *Provide for any future regional or local walkways linking adjoining facilities to Meola Road within the established hierarchy of paths.*
- *In terms of the purpose and function of the Lakeside Park facilitate any future local or regional walkways proposed for the area and, in particular any walkways which can strengthen connections between activities in the Western Springs/Meola area and provide improved linkage to adjoining communities.*

**Policy 23** *To promote and maintain liaison with MOTAT, the Zoo and the Stadium to resolve common issues relating to parking, entrances and linkages.*

### **Explanation**

*The three adjacent facilities share common interests with the Western Springs Lakeside Park. There is overlap in the use of car parking, location of entrances, linkage between each, boundaries and signs. Several of these areas of interest require joint action. Both the Zoo and MOTAT seek more direct access with the Park.*

### **Implementation**

- *Initiate discussions with MOTAT and the Zoo regarding the possibility of limited and low key access links between all three facilities which would not compromise the natural values and informal recreation characteristics of the Park.*

- *Ensure that access links (including signs, structures, etc) are designed to be in harmony with the standardised systems and/or the natural character of the Park.*
- *Liaise with MOTAT and the Zoo regarding the possibility of extending the tramway to the Zoo and Park entrance off Motions Road.*
- *Liaise with other Council departments and other potential users regarding the process to be followed and the requirements and constraints which would be associated with developing new shared parking in the vicinity of the existing sports field to the north-east of MOTAT.*
- *Before any commercial development or issues of entry to and from adjoining activities on the Western Springs Lakeside boundary which has an effect on the park is undertaken, there shall be consultation with the Area Manager who may refer the matter to the Western Bays Community Board for comment.*



## 4.0

# HERITAGE VALUES, ISSUES AND POLICIES



## 4.1 Cultural Heritage

### 4.1.1 Historical and Cultural Values

Maori history for the area is not widely documented, but the Tamaki Makaurau was home to many hapu who tended to follow a continuing cycle of bush clearance for cultivation of new gardens, and return to old gardens. Seasonal and other changes in food supplies dictated movement of these groups. In addition, changing relationships between hapu resulted in the occasional occupation of fortified pa. The springs and stream of Waiorea (Western Springs) were an important location for the harvesting of the Orea (eel).

It is recorded that during one of the battles fought in the Tamaki area, Kawharu (a warrior raised in the Manukau) fought local iwi at a site overlooking Waiorea. On the ridge, today traced by Surrey Crescent, Te Raeokawharu ('Kawharu's brow') marks the spot where the invading chief rested. Between 1830-1840, during the Maori musket wars, Ngati Tahinga, Waiohua, and a smaller number of Te Taou lived in the wider area, called Te Rehu.

At this same time (1830-1860) the infant town of Auckland was starting to expand outwards from its Shortland Street nucleus. Land was purchased by settlers in the County of Eden, which included the present suburbs of Grey Lynn and Westmere.

Lorraine Wilson's book 'An Iron Essay, a short history of the beam engine and Western Springs waterworks' tells how Auckland grew rapidly in the years following 1841, expanding from some 2000 people to 12000 in 1865. The form of government evolved from central through the governor through to elections for municipal government in 1851. By 1871 the new municipality, Auckland City Council, was under pressure to provide an improved water supply. There was no significant river or lake within easy reach of the town and the geology placed limitations on options.

Strong public opinion accelerated action and in 1874 the Moriarty Report recommended Western Springs as the source. This necessitated the purchase of property, some 140 acres from Low and Motions who operated a Mill on the site. The council vacillated but eventually engineer/architect William Errington was commissioned to prepare plans. Carrington had previously designed and supplied pumping machinery for a number of mines in Thames and later designed the Calliope dry dock in Devonport.

A pumphouse housing a double compound condensing steam engine (beam engines) with two boilers and pumps was designed, built and installed. Plate 7 shows the pumping station in operation.

It was expected that 3000,000 gallons could be provided per day from the Western Springs reservoir, accessed from a 25 ft. deep shaft. The reservoir was progressively enlarged over time and the total reticulated system was supported by storage facilities at Ponsonby/Karangahape Road and at Symonds Street. The water works was opened in 1877.

The pumphouse remains an important heritage structure in the Western Springs/Auckland area and is now within the site occupied by the Museum of Transport and Technology.

Three cottages were constructed in the vicinity of the site to house the technical staff operating the pump station. The engineers house still remains today as part of MOTAT's Victorian village

As the demand for water increased, the Western Springs system was supplemented and eventually replaced water supply from the Waitakere ranges. The first water retention dam was completed here in 1900. The cost of filtering equipment (required as a result of rising health standards) and increasing maintenance costs eventually lead to pumping being discontinued at Western Springs in 1928. The boilers were eventually removed in 1937 and the chimney demolished in 1948.

During the depression between 1930-1931 work began to develop a camping ground on 16 acres beside Motions Road. During World War II the American Armed Services erected a personnel camp on the camping ground. While the land reverted to the City Council after the war, the camping ground never reopened (*Figure 8*). The war time buildings were finally demolished in the 1950's.

In 1951 the Auckland Public Relations Office was given responsibility for developing the area, but apart from a small quantity of filling work along the north east bank no further progress was made.

As a result, the Auckland City Council resumed responsibility and produced plans for an ambitious development on the site. An exhibition hall, theatre, dance hall, restaurant, funfair, water garden and skating rink were proposed to complement the existing zoo and stadium. By 1961, however, lack of money prevented the plan reaching fruition and a substitute plan was produced by the Parks Department. Photographs from this time show the Park area to be predominantly covered with exotic weeds and scrub vegetation. The area between the stadium and lake was densely vegetated, whilst on the opposite bank the marshy land was largely open. Since the 1960's the Council has been developing the Park, concentrating increasingly on enhancing the natural values of the 'native area'.

#### **4.1.2 Historical and Cultural Issues**

- *The Lake and springs are identified under the District Plan as a Maori Heritage site.*
- *To Tangata Whenua water must be managed in a holistic manner and be nurtured as a living entity. Maori have raised issues of protection and enhancement of the Mauri of the waters for Waahi Tapu, fisheries, shellfish, drinking water and food production. In addition, the Mauri of water for sanctification and purification purposes are of concern.*
- *Tangata Whenua have expressed concern about contaminants from land entering the water including sewage, urban run-off, leachates, sedimentation and dumping of household wastes. (Water quality is addressed in Section 4.2).*
- *To date there has been no thorough archaeological survey of the Park.*
- *The use of Western Springs for water supply purposes is an important part of Auckland's early history.*
- *There are opportunities for including interpretive material on sites of cultural and/or historical value within the Park which are not being realised.*

#### **4.1.3 Historical and Cultural Policies**

**Policy 24**     *To recognise, protect and interpret the cultural and historical values of the Park.*

##### ***Explanation***

*Both Maori and European cultural and historical values associated with the Park need to be protected. In addition these values should be promoted.*

##### ***Implementation***

- *Prior to the preparation of planting and signage plans commission an archaeological survey of the park to identify any archaeological sites and to ensure that any archaeological sites found are protected from damage due to planting or other ground disturbance.*
- *In consultation with Maori, decide on the appropriate form of treatment for sites of cultural significance within the Park.*
- *Discourage the introduction of additional elements or structures that detract from or degrade the existing cultural or historical values of the Park*

- *In consultation with Maori, decide on the appropriate form of interpretation of the site in relation to Maori cultural values.*
- *Include European history of the site in interpretive material, including any visible remains within or visible from the Park.*



FIGURE 8. WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE, 1938



## 4.2 Water Quality

### 4.2.1 Water Quality Values

Western Springs Lake is a shallow spring fed lake of approximately 3 hectares in area and with a maximum depth of 2.9 metres. The lake is eutrophic (ie. it has excess nutrients).

The nutrient inflow into the lake is sufficient to support either weed or algal growth. The inflowing ground water generally has a low level of contamination, and most of the nutrients found in the lake are a consequence of surface run-off, decaying waterweed, waterfowl defecation, and to a lesser extent stagnant groundwater which has had additional inputs of various contaminants (eg. leaking sewers, sewerage overflows, petrol combustion by-products, fertilisers and animal faeces).

Aquatic weed is a major problem in the lake. The current method of weed control is to collect it using a motorised boat with large rakes attached to the bow. The weed is then moved to the weirs and when a significant quantity has been collected the weir boards are lifted and the weed is discharged to Motions Creek. This method has been used for approximately twelve years and during the summer months is employed on a daily basis. This method of control is a short term measure and will not lead to a long term reduction in the weed problem.

The placement of approximately 35 bales of barley straw into the lake every September is also used in an attempt to control unattached floating weeds. However, the addition of bales to the lake will not be sustainable in the long term as they contribute to the lake's biological oxygen demand through the process of decomposition and have an unknown effect on the ecology of the lake.

Western Springs lake discharges from two weirs into Motions Creek. Motions Creek runs along the northern boundary of the Park, occupying approximately one sixth of its perimeter. Motions Creek is prone to flooding during any heavy rain. The creek has been protected against erosion by the installation of gabion baskets on 75 metres of its eastern side. Elsewhere, undercutting of banks and grazing by waterfowl has resulted in an ongoing erosion and slumping problems along the Creek channel.

The complete Western Spring Lakeside Park water quality issues study undertaken by Worley Consultants is available from Council.

### 4.2.2 Water Quality Issues

- *Western Springs lake is eutrophic (has excess nutrients). These nutrients are most likely derived from surface run-off, decaying waterweed and, to a lesser extent, faecal matter from waterfowl. In addition to water weed there have been occurrences of algal blooms and associated outbreaks of botulism.*

- *Motions Creek is degraded. The water quality of this stream is unlikely to improve in the near future unless all discharges to the stream are addressed. The Creek is subject to excessive flow after heavy rain which periodically floods adjoining areas of the Park. Erosion of the channel banks in the Creek is also an ongoing problem.*
- *Water weed is the main water quality problem within the Western Springs lake. The major historical source of the water weed has been people releasing it along with fish etc from freshwater aquariums.*
- *It is not known to what degree the weed is impacting on the aquatic ecosystem of the lake. The main obvious environmental effect of the weed appears to be the aesthetic impacts and odour issues associated with decaying vegetation. Further studies and trials are needed with regard to water weed control.*
- *Any method of eliminating water weed should include the physical removal of the weed from the system. If the weed is allowed to remain in the lake then its decay will release nutrients, leading to subsequent increased weed growth.*

#### **4.2.3 Water Quality Policies**

**Policy 25**     *To investigate appropriate methods of aquatic weed control and to monitor the resultant impacts on the lake and wetland ecosystems.*

##### ***Explanation***

*A variety of aquatic weed control methods have been trialed in the past, but none have been completely successful. Further trials are needed. Monitoring will need to include the impacts of the methods being trialed on the lake and wetland ecosystems.*

##### ***Implementation***

- *Design and implement a research programme which will determine the specific impacts of aquatic weeds on the ecology of the lake. Such research will involve ongoing routine investigations (at least seasonal) into the aquatic flora, fauna and chemistry of the lake. These investigations should be fully integrated with the wider biological studies which will be undertaken (refer to Policy 28).*
- *Conduct trials of appropriate weed control methods as and when they become available, including those which seek to prevent the problem as well as those which merely remove excess growth. In this context the removal of sediments from the bed of the lake with the aid of a suction dredge should be trialed along with other methods for direct weed control.*

- *Liaise with Zoo engineer prior to the initiation of new methods or trials regarding aquatic weed control.*
- *Investigations should seek to predict cause-effect and flow-on relationships, especially with regard to possible changes in Park management practices. Of particular importance will be the relationship between weed growth and any changes to water nutrient status and turbidity as a result of (for example) lakeside enhancement plantings which may act to intercept and trap inflowing nutrients and sediments.*
- *The relationship between aquatic weeds and nuisance algae should be investigated. In particular the research should attempt to ascertain whether removal of the weeds will lead to algal blooms (ie. the aquatic weeds may be acting as a nutrient sink, and their removal may therefore leave nutrients available for the problem algae species to utilise).*
- *The design of any such studies should be undertaken or at least reviewed by qualified experts in this field. However, there may be opportunities to enlist assistance in the monitoring aspects of such research from the neighbouring schools and Unitech.*
- *In the meantime, undertake weed clearance when weed growth exceeds 10 m<sup>2</sup> on lake surface. Clearance will be by mechanical (as opposed to herbicide) means, and will include the physical removal of the weed from the lake. As far as practicable the lake weed should not be disposed of by release into Motions Creek but rather by composting or (where such is not practical) by transfer to safe, appropriate and approved disposal areas such as landfills.*
- *Discourage the dumping of aquarium weeds into the lake by way of interpretative signs to discourage the practice.*
- *Eradicate papyrus from the lake and wetlands.*

**Policy 26**     ***To reduce the overland flow of water into the lake.***

***Explanation***

*Overland flow may contain contaminants from a variety of sources, including urban run-off, motor vehicles, sewer overflows, etc.*

***Implementation***

- *Reduce the flow of sediments and contaminants into the lake by planting a buffer of low lying and dense vegetation in areas where overland flow occurs.*

**Policy 27**     *To pursue strategies to improve the water quality and natural values of Motions Creek.*

**Explanation**

*Motions Creek has a degraded water quality, primarily as a result of off-site (ie. wider catchment) activities and subsequent discharges into it upstream from the Park. Efforts to improve its water quality should be initiated in order that it can become a future focus for greater public enjoyment of the Park.*

*Water quality is further degraded by stream bank erosion (which also results in a loss of Park land). It may be necessary to extend the existing artificial channel walls of Motions Creek if erosion problems continue.*

*Furthermore, the periodic flooding of Motions Creek also degrades water quality (as well as being a nuisance), and at times the flood waters may enter and contaminate the waters of the lake itself. It may be necessary in the future to provide some form of flood protection here.*

**Implementation**

- *Liaise with other departments of Council and the ARC to establish a programme to improve the water quality of the creek as a matter of priority. The programme is to include :*
  - *the implementation of the Foul Water Management Plan 1990 and its recommendations.*
  - *the design and implementation of silt and litter traps on all inflow drains to the creek.*
  - *the staged separation of foul and stormwater thus allowing only stormwater into the creek.*
- *Monitoring of the creek should be continued and all necessary works undertaken to mitigate erosion in those places where it is becoming significant. Where such works will involve channelisation then the use of solid structures should be limited to the lower portion of the stream bank, with the upper portion being vegetated to provide a softer appearance.*
- *Investigate the need for and/or desirability of protection from Motions Creek flood waters, by way of :*
  - *liaison with appropriate Council departments regarding the installation of an automatic water level recorder at Motions Creek.*
  - *collection of flood data for an appropriate period of time (the longer the better).*

- *seeking of professional advice (if required) from the appropriate Council departments as to the range of options regarding suitable flood control mechanisms.*

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## Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## 4.3 Ecology

### 4.3.1 Ecological and Conservation Values

As described earlier in Section 1.3, the Park can be divided into three broad areas, being a parkland area, a natural area and the lake itself (*Figure 4*).

The parkland area includes two types of community, being treeland and grassland (with shrubberies and gardens also present). These entirely surround the natural area. The ecosystems of this natural part of the Park are comprised of a wetland-forest-lagoon complex located to the south.

The wetlands of the natural area contain the most prominent ecological and conservation values of the Park. The wetland communities that are present here are significant for a number of reasons:

- (i) They are the only community which naturally occurs within the Park, and thereby reflect a part of the natural history of the Tamaki Ecological District.
- (ii) They are a functioning wetland. Wetlands are nationally under-represented, and it is widely recognised that all of those which remain deserve special conservation effort.
- (iii) It is a wetland which possesses an impressive combination of habitat types which grade from one to the other in an unbroken sequence. Such sequences are now nationally uncommon (especially regarding wetland vegetation), and are very rare within the Tamaki Ecological District.
- (iv) These wetlands are in good health, enjoying a high species diversity and a moderately high naturalness.
- (v) These wetlands occupy a large area, especially in relation to the size of most remaining wetlands within the Tamaki Ecological District. The large size of this wetland provides much valuable habitat for fauna, and in recognition of this the Department of Conservation has recently identified these wetlands (and the lake) as a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI) of moderate-high significance.
- (vi) These wetlands are representative, exemplifying the typical components of good quality wetlands, and providing an example of a particular type of habitat.

In recognition of the high ecological and conservation values of these wetlands both the Department of Conservation (in its Conservation Management Strategy) and the Auckland Regional Council (in its Regional Policy Statement) have identified this area (including the lake) as a site of regional significance.

The lake itself shares some (but not all) of the values which are associated with the wetland area, principally the provision of different habitat types. Notwithstanding this, the lake does not have a particularly high plant species diversity, and there seems to be very few (if any) native submerged plant communities present. Additionally, the aquatic weed problem here is severe.

The forest and scrub areas around the wetland area also have values. They are an important component of the sequences mentioned earlier, and play a key role in regulating many of the ecological processes which may effect the functioning of the wetland. They also provide a habitat for many bird species and add to the overall biological diversity of the Park, and to its representativeness. However, up until now there has been no ultimate forest type envisaged for the wider natural area (although a swamp-forest vegetation is the aim for the wetland island). Hence, plantings have generally been a mixture of native species from a variety of habitats and forest types. The opportunity to rectify this and aim for the establishment of a particular forest type should be taken.

Some concern has been expressed over the death of trees on the main lake island as a result of their being used by a colony of shags (for roosting and nesting purposes). However, this concern must be balanced against the conservation values of maintaining such breeding colonies and the educational and intrinsic values of having such a colony on public display. Furthermore, the trees which have died are all exotics and would have been eventually replaced (under the provisions of this plan) by native trees. These dead trees will probably continue to serve as the principal nesting trees until they collapse - new trees will only be utilised as the colony's population increases. Monitoring of the numbers of breeding pairs and of the survival rates of chicks should be included as part of a scientific investigations programme.

The wetlands, the lake, the forest and the scrub areas are all inextricably linked. When viewed as various components of the one system the combined values of these areas stand out to create a site of regional ecological significance and of much conservation value. A more detailed discussion on the ecology of the Park has been prepared by Boffa Miskell and is available from Council.

#### **4.3.2 Ecological and Conservation Issues**

- *The Park contains a recognised site of regional significance. Its management must recognise the ecological and conservation values which are present and provide for their maintenance and enhancement.*
- *The natural area (including the lake islands) has minor weed and exotic tree infestations.*
- *Very little is known about the ecological inter-relationships which exist between the various plants and animals of the Park, including those which are natural and those which are introduced (such as aquatic weeds).*
- *There exist numerous opportunities for enhancing and expanding the ecological values of the natural area and other selected parts of the Park.*
- *Planting programmes within the natural area need to be more consistent with a particular forest type. Consideration needs to be given as to the exact forest type which should be created in this area, and the type selected will need to be in keeping with those that naturally occur (or occurred) within the Tamaki Ecological District. A pohutukawa-broadleaf forest would be appropriate.*

- *All plantings will need to follow ecological principles.*
- *Existing plantings within the natural area include some natives which may not be appropriate to the pohutukawa-broadleaf forest type concept.*
- *The channels within the wetland area are an important component of that ecosystem, and will need to be kept open.*
- *Animal pests are present, including both predators, browsers and released exotic species such as fish and turtles.*

#### **4.3.3 Ecology and Conservation Policies<sup>1</sup>**

**Policy 28**     *To plan and implement a scientific investigation into the inter-relationships which exist between the various plants and animals present within the Park.*

##### ***Explanation***

*As yet there is no comprehensive understanding of the inter-relationships which exist between the various plants and animals of the Park, in particular those of the aquatic ecosystems (ie. the plants including weeds, invertebrates, fish, eels, birds, frogs and turtles which utilise the lake and wetlands). Such an understanding is essential to wise and informed management decisions.*

##### ***Implementation***

- *Design and implement a research programme which will investigate the inter-relationships which exist between the various plants and animals of the Park including Motions Creek.*
- *The design of the research programme should be undertaken or at least reviewed by qualified experts in this field. However, there may be opportunities to enlist assistance in the monitoring aspects for such research from the neighbouring schools and Unitech.*
- *Integrate this research programme with the investigations into control options for water weed (see Policy 25).*

**Policy 29**     *To plan and implement a comprehensive control programme for terrestrial predators and all other pest or otherwise undesirable animals.*

##### ***Explanation***

*Predators (such as cats, rats and stoats) and animal pests (such as possums) have adverse impacts on both the flora and fauna of the Park and need to be controlled. In addition, exotic animals (eg. rabbit, perch, tench, rudd, koi carp, goldfish, mosquito fish and turtles)*

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<sup>1</sup> Aquatic lake weed has been defined within this management plan as a water quality problem, and as such has been placed within the policy section dealing with water quality.

*have been historically released into the lake by members of the public. Such practices should be discouraged.*

**Implementation**

- *Establish an integrated programme to control animal predators and pests.*
- *Dissuade the public from releasing exotic animals into the lake by way of appropriate educational material at selected interpretation centre.*

**Policy 30**     ***To eradicate or control all terrestrial weeds within the Park.***

**Explanation**

*A few terrestrial weed species are present within the Park and need to be eradicated where possible or otherwise controlled.*

**Implementation**

- *Remove all of the obvious specimens (ie. pampas grass) by way of a quick eradication programme.*
- *Longer term eradication programmes will be required to remove the other weed species.*
- *Wherever possible chemical herbicides should not be used in any of the eradication operations.*

**Policy 31**     ***To rationalise and co-ordinate the planting programme for the Park so as to optimise the resultant values.***

**Explanation**

*In terms of optimising the ecological, educational and conservation values of the Park an integrated, clearly focused and ecologically sound planting programme is needed. This programme needs to specify what is to be planted where, which areas are to be left as they are, and what principles need to be applied.*

**Implementation**

- *A lowland forest dominated by pohutukawa, puriri and kohekohe will be established in the natural area, together with occasional other canopy species such as karaka, kowhai, titoki, taraire and tawa. A scattering of podocarps (in particular kahikatea) would also be appropriate.*
- *This will be achieved by an increased planting of appropriate species within the natural area, utilising both :*

- the existing nursery crop of kanuka, following some branch and tree thinning to allow in sufficient light; and
  - much of the available open space within the boundaries of the natural area (see Figure 6 for details). Where no tree cover currently exists direct planting of forest species could be trialed, or alternatively a nursery crop could be established. The nursery crop will be manuka and / or kanuka and its establishment will rely on the "slash laying" method.
- Any native plants which are not in accordance with the Pohutukawa-broadleaf forest type will be removed from the natural area in due course, or if short lived allowed to die out, and replaced with more appropriate species.
  - Increase and expand the swamp-forest planting programme on the island within the wetland, and in appropriate areas along the channel margins of the terrestrial forest.
  - No plantings of any species will be undertaken within the reedlands of the wetland, in order to maintain it in as natural a state as possible.
  - New reedland communities will be established in the following places :
    - the lakebed area between the artificial island and the lake foreshore.
    - the lagoon within the natural area.
    - the lily pond.
    - appropriate other places along the southern and eastern margins of the lake (see the concept plan (Figure 6) for location details).
  - The natural character and ecological values of the lake islands and islets will be maintained and enhanced in the following manner :
    - the smaller islets on the northern shores of the lake support a dense native vegetation and only limited plantings (if any) should be contemplated for these.
    - plantings on the islands on the southern shores of the lake should be in keeping with the mainland plantings (natural area) in terms of the species used. Plantings of lake edge sedges should also be undertaken.
    - none of these islands should be connected to the mainland, in order to preserve the predator and animal pest barrier (ie. open water) which currently exists.
    - monitoring of the shag colony will be undertaken in terms of population increase and any subsequent colonisation of neighbouring trees.

- *Remove all exotic trees growing within the natural area, with the exception of those located on the lake islands. Plant native species beneath the exotic trees growing on the lake islands, with the aim being to eventually replace the existing mixed canopy with one comprised of indigenous forest. Remove the exotic specimens from the islands as and when appropriate.*
- *Ecological principles will be followed in all planting programmes within both the natural area and the lake, and in particular the following three practices will be carried out :*
  - *use species which are naturally occurring within the Tamaki Ecological District.*
  - *use plant material sourced from within the Tamaki Ecological District.*
  - *locate plants only within their natural habitat types (eg. only plant wetland species in wetlands).*
- *The selection criteria for future plantings of trees within the parkland area of the Park will include (but not be restricted to) their contribution as an off-seasonal food source for native bird species.*
- *Retain adequate areas of open ground alongside the lake shores for bird roosting purposes.*
- *The planting programme for the Park will need to be consistent with Policy 39 (ie. the preparation of a planting plan).*

**Policy 32**     ***To monitor and, if necessary control the population numbers of birds inhabiting the park.***

***Explanation***

*A large number of birds inhabit the park, including duck, geese, swan, shags and other waterfowl. The numbers of some of these species are growing relatively high, with associated problems. In particular the shag colony is growing rapidly, with consequent loss of several trees and severe smelling around their roosts. The goose population is also increasing rapidly.*

***Implementation***

- *Regularly monitor and record the numbers of duck, geese, swan, and shags resident within the park.*
- *Initiate a culling programme once numbers of birds become problematic. Ensure this culling programme is targeted at the problem species only.*

**Policy 33**     *To investigate the viability of introducing rare, threatened or otherwise "at risk" species of bird into selected wetlands of the natural area.*

**Explanation**

*The opportunity exists to introduce some "at risk" bird species into the wetlands of the Park. The Department of Conservation will need to be involved from the outset in any such moves. Furthermore, any introductions may require special protection measures over and above the provisions of this management plan (eg. localised predator-proof fencing, intensified and/or enhanced predator eradication programmes, complete encirclement of habitat by water).*

**Implementation**

- *Liaise with the Auckland Conservancy of the Department of Conservation and Zoo staff involved in species management programmes with regard to the feasibility of introducing "at risk" bird species into the Park.*

**Policy 34**     *To maintain the open channels which exist within the wetland.*

**Explanation**

*The existing open channels are an essential part of the wetland ecosystem, and need to be maintained.*

**Implementation**

- *This will require the removal of exotic weeds, clearance of native reedlands where the growth of such is encroaching upon these channels, and possibly some periodic dredging operations.*
- *Where new wetland areas are to be established the design of such areas may need to incorporate open channels.*
- *Restore and maintain the channel along the wetland-mainland interface in the natural area. This will have the added advantage of fully isolating the island-reedland area within the wetland, and making access for predators more difficult.*

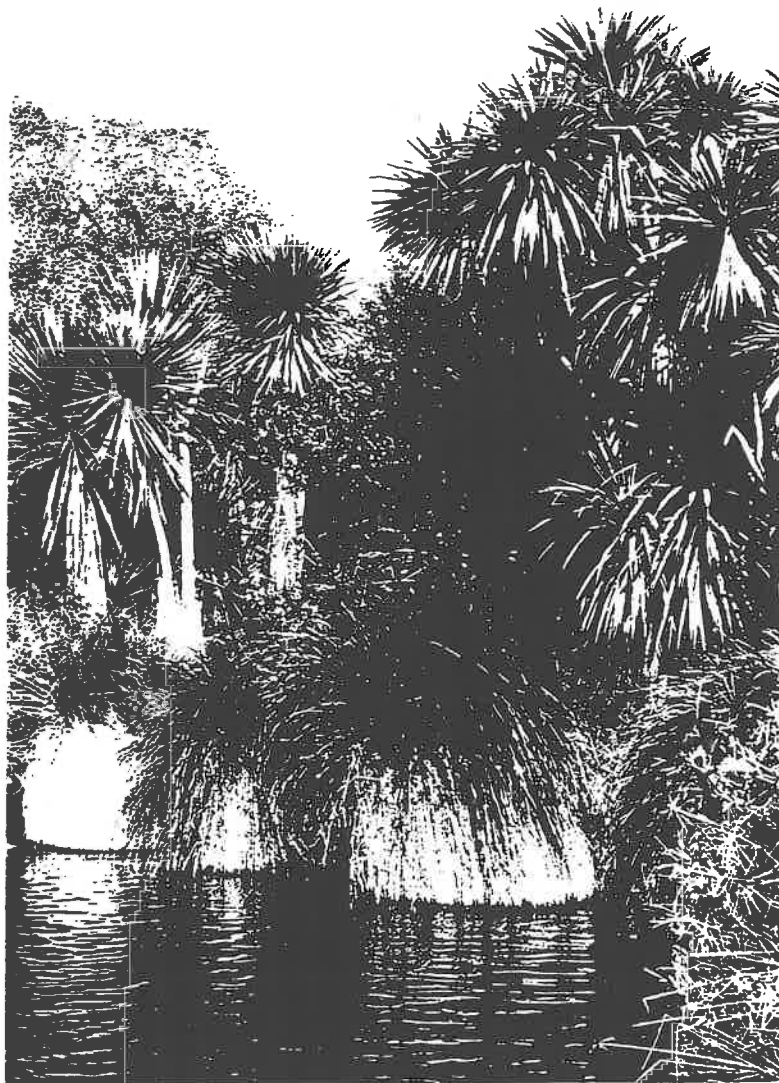


PLATE 9 : WETLAND CHANNEL MARGINS

## 4.4 Interpretation and Education

### 4.4.1 Description

The Park is situated between two very significant educational institutions, being MOTAT and the Zoo. However, the Park itself is also a very valuable educational facility, offering something different yet complimentary to its adjoining institutions.

Its main educational value is its natural setting within which the public can view and experience for themselves a variety of native plants and wildlife. There are few other places within the Tamaki Ecological District which have on display such numbers and diversity of waterfowl, or where the life cycles of these species can be witnessed at first hand (eg. shags nesting). In brief, the Park offers an outstanding example of a part of the natural heritage of the Tamaki Ecological District.

Part of the Park's management should be to provide information on its history, botany, wildlife, ecological processes and conservation values.

It is envisaged that local schools will continue to utilise the Park as a teaching facility. The educational values of the Park, although already high, should also indirectly benefit from the implementation of several of the policies contained within other sections of this plan (ie. Ecology, Interpretation and Signs). In addition to these more direct educational policies are included below.

The parkland area of the Park could also be used for educational purposes with little extra effort - for example, planting some of the less common species of the Auckland Ecological Region, or all species of a particular genus of New Zealand tree (eg. beech trees), perhaps together with examples of different overseas species of the same genus (eg. beech trees from Chile) complete with distribution maps being included on the interpretive material.

### 4.4.2 Interpretation and Education Issues

- *While the Park already performs a valuable educational function opportunities exist for enhancing and expanding upon these.*
- *Educational opportunities should be directly complimentary to the recreational functions of the Park (ie. the educational opportunities need to be a fully integrated component of the Park experience and require no extra effort on the part of the visitor).*



SKETCH 2 : INTERPRETATION AND SIGNS

#### 4.4.3 Interpretation and Education Policies

**Policy 35**     *To develop a programme for on-site interpretation including sign boards and other material.*

**Explanation**

*Provision of interpretive material will broaden the Park's appeal in an appropriate low key manner. Material should be provided for a range of ages.*

**Implementation**

- *On site interpretation will include information on cultural, historical and ecological values.*
- *Emphasis will be placed on the inter-relationship of ecological processes rather than merely identifying species.*
- *Information will also be presented explaining problems, whether perceived or real (eg roosting shags killing trees, water weed, pollution, over feeding the ducks).*
- *Interpretation sign boards will be supplemented by leaflet material.*

**Policy 36**     *To provide for educational opportunities when implementing other policies within this plan.*

**Explanation**

*A number of opportunities exist to include an educational perspective to works and operations scheduled for implementation in this management plan.*

**Implementation**

- *The planting programme for the natural area provides an opportunity to inform the public of the means by which regeneration naturally occurs and how it can be assisted by revegetation.*
- *The creation of the artificial island and its associated boardwalks offers another significant educational opportunity. These boardwalks will cross through and over a sequence of reedland habitats, on both sides of the island. A small interpretation display would be appropriate on the island.*

**Policy 37**     *To enhance the educational values of the parkland area of the Park.*

**Explanation**

*In order to widen the educational and conservation values of the Park judicious plantings of native plants which are uncommon (but nevertheless present) within the Auckland Ecological Region is appropriate (eg. mahoe wao, tawapou, manatu). In addition, while totally inappropriate for planting within the natural area, the inclusion of groups of non-local indigenous tree species within the parkland area is appropriate.*

**Implementation**

- *Utilise a small part of the Park for the establishment of less common plant species of the Auckland Ecological Region.*
- *Include small stands of native trees which are not naturally occurring within either the Tamaki Ecological District or the Auckland Ecological Region in plantings within the parkland area. Some copses of these trees could have a particular generic theme (ie. beech trees (genus : Nothofagus) of New Zealand. Consideration should be given to plant alongside such thematic copses other species of the same genera but which only occur overseas (eg. Chilean beech trees (genus : Nothofagus)).*
- *The planting sites for these species will only be within the parkland area of the Park.*
- *All specimens planted will be clearly labelled.*

**Policy 38**     *To seek the involvement of local schools in the revegetation programme.*

**Explanation**

*The schools adjoining the Park already utilise it as an educational resource. This relationship could be enhanced.*

**Implementation**

- *Liaise with the three local schools to enhance the educational use of the Park by involving students in the planting, mulching, watering, fertilising and weed control aspects of the revegetation programme planned for the natural area.*

## 5.0

# ADMINISTRATION

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## Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## **5.1 Administration and Management**

### **5.1.1 Description**

The Park is administered by the Western Area Parks Management of Auckland City under the guidance of the Recreation and Community Services Committee.

The primary mechanism by which the provisions of this plan will be implemented is through the Auckland City Council Annual Plan. This specifies the works and actions which will be undertaken in any given financial year. However, since some of the goals specified in this Park management plan are longer term it will be necessary for staff to draw up programmes or plans which span the life of those particular goals. This is especially the case with regard to the planting and revegetation programme.

### **5.1.2 Administration and Management Issues**

- *The implementation of this plan will require appropriate management processes to be in place.*
- *There are other statutory documents which apply to the Park and which need to be complied with.*

### **5.1.3 Administration and Management Policies**

**Policy 39**     *To implement the provisions of this plan in a structured and integrated manner.*

#### ***Explanation***

*There is a need to develop appropriate, integrated and well planned strategies in order to effectively implement the provisions of this plan.*

#### ***Implementation***

- *A planting plan shall be prepared for all areas of the Park which are scheduled for revegetation and/or rehabilitation.*
- *This planting plan will list species, source, numbers, planting locations and will also schedule all maintenance works for each planted area (ie. watering, mulching, weeding etc).*
- *Up-to-date records will be kept of the extent of success in each of the planting areas for the ongoing development of planting policy.*
- *An annual works programme shall be prepared for the Park based upon the provisions of this management plan.*

- *The annual works programme will have regard to the planting plan and the ecological and aquatic weed control, the research programmes and will ensure that adequate resources have been made available for the successful implementation of their provisions.*
- *Any major proposal for works that could be of community interest shall be referred to the Community Board for comment before implementation.*

**Policy 40**     *To have regard to other statutory documents in implementing this plan.*

**Explanation**

*There needs to be compliance with Auckland City policies and other relevant legislation in respect to the management and operation of this plan.*

**Implementation**

- *There will be compliance with all legislation, District Plan provisions and by-laws as it affects the Park in all activity and actions undertaken therein.*

**Policy 41**     *To keep this management plan under continuous review.*

**Explanation**

*All parts of this plan will be kept under a continuous review in order to be able to adapt to changing circumstances or to adapt in accordance with increased knowledge. Notwithstanding this, a full review will be undertaken ten years from the date of the final approval by Council of this plan.*

**Implementation**

- *Adapt parts of this plan as required in order to meet changing circumstances or to adapt in accordance with increased knowledge.*
- *Ensure public input into any plan changes.*
- *Undertake a full review of the entire plan within ten years of its date of approval.*

## 6.0

# APPENDICES

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# Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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## **APPENDIX 6.1**

### **Planning Context : Zoning**

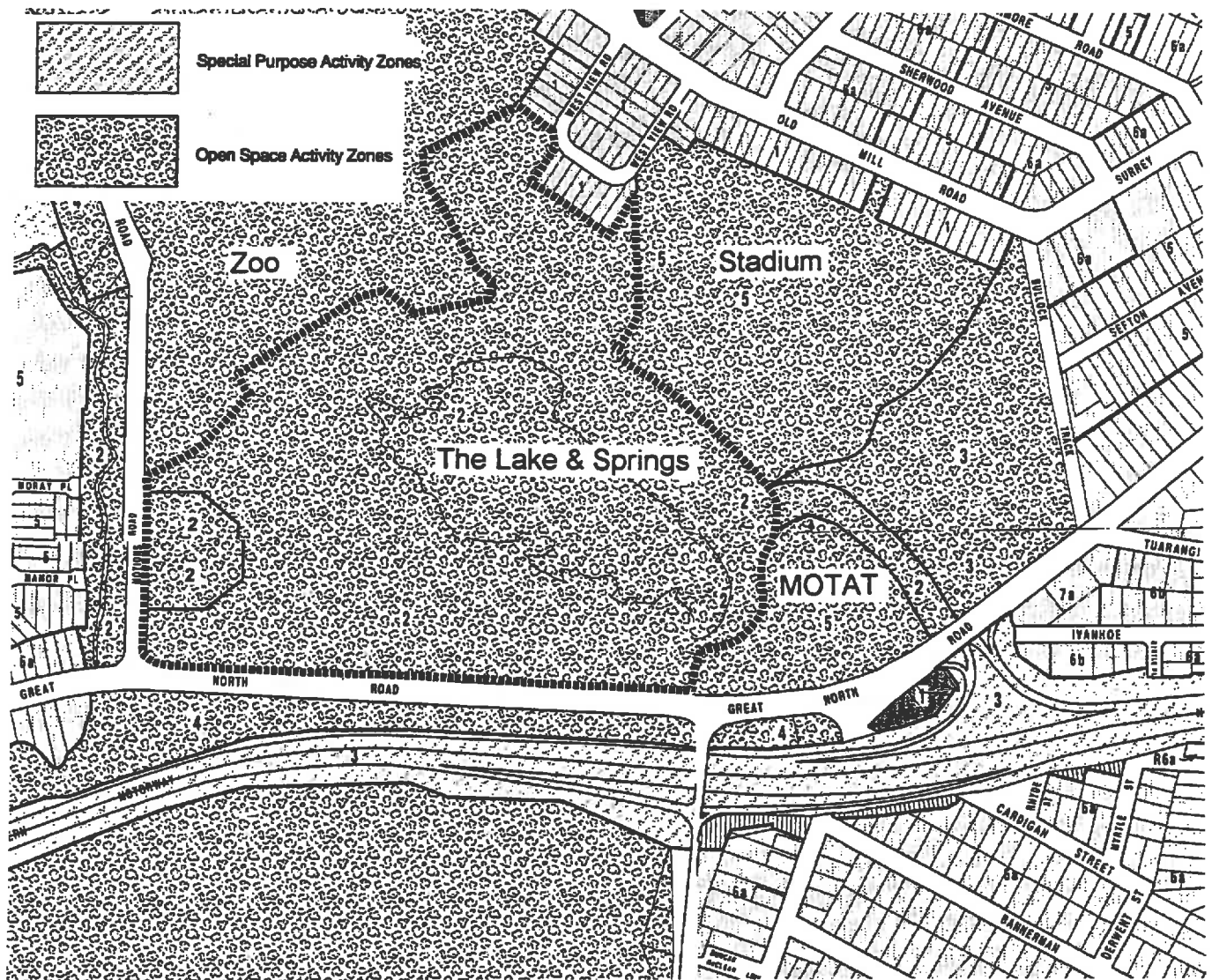
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# Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

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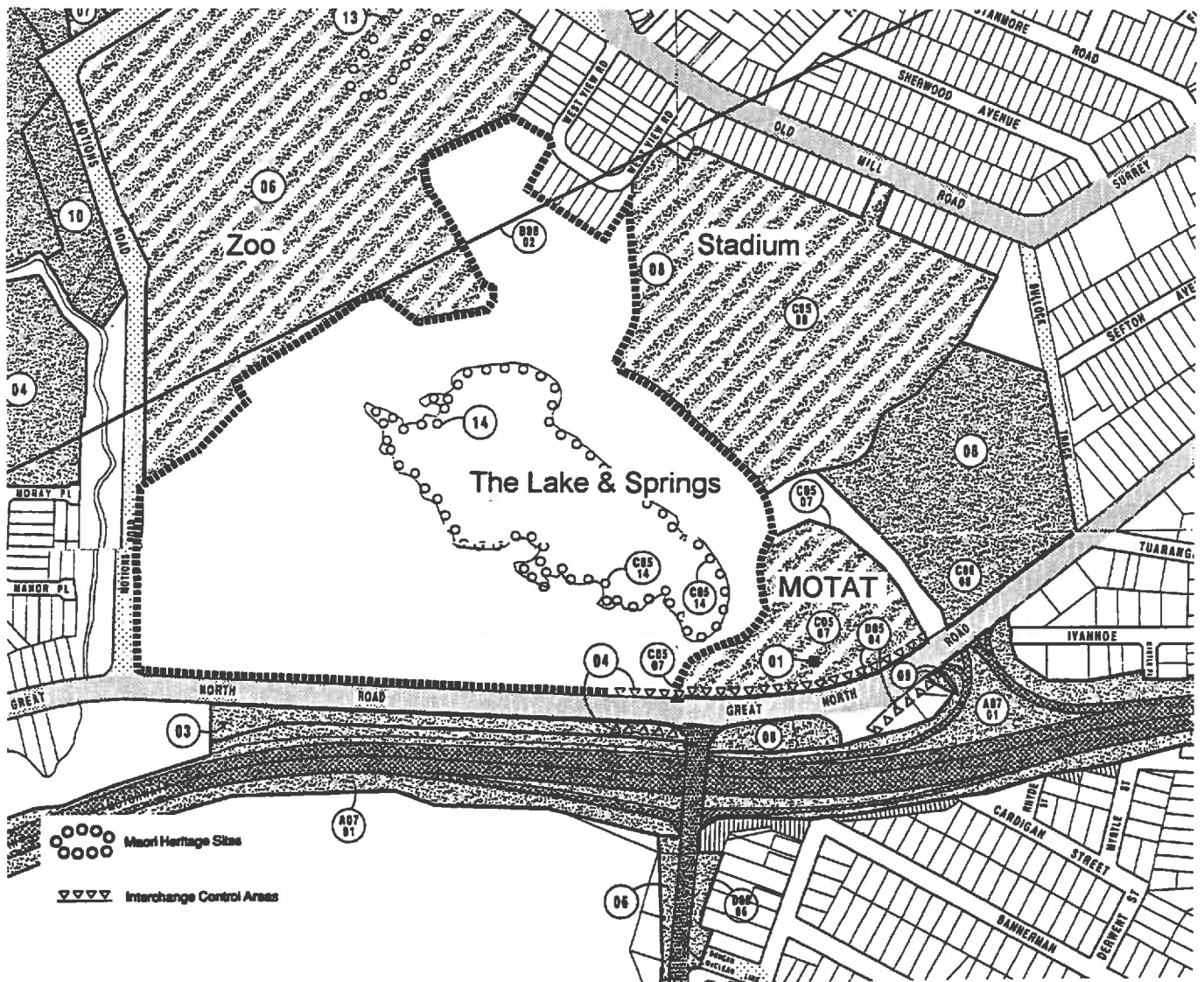
# Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

Planning Map : Zoning  
from Proposed District Plan (1993), Isthmus area



# Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan

Planning Map : Additional Limitations  
from Proposed District Plan (1993), Isthmus area



1 OCT 1995