

BIRKENHEAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK Masterplan

August 2019_Rev D . Local Board Adoption

Revision Control

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April 2018	Working draft for internal feedback
Rev A_December 2018	Working draft for local board workshop
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Rev D_August 2019	Local Board Adoption

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te koa

We must work together for the wellbeing of all

Message from the Chair

I'm pleased to present the completed masterplan for Birkenhead War Memorial Park. The master planning process was initiated by Kaipātiki Local board in 2017 following strong community input on the Kaipātiki Local Board Plan 2017.

At the time of initiating the masterplan, the grandstand at Birkenhead War Memorial Park had recently been condemned. The local board and community knew the replacement of such a significant facility would be a big investment, and that its deconstruction would enable a fresh look at what outcomes and opportunities the park could offer the changing community into the next 30 – 50 years. However, the local board realised that the investment required for the aging park facilities would go beyond the usual funding sources available to a local board.

Kaipātiki Local Board selected the redevelopment of Birkenhead War Memorial Park as its 'one local initiative' that it would advocate to the Governing Body of Auckland Council to fund through the 10-year Budget 2018-2028, and was successful in securing the funding. The development of the park will now be guided by the masterplan, to be delivered in stages based on the priorities identified by the community. The board is very grateful to mana whenua for their involvement in this project.

The priorities of the masterplan align with the Kaipātiki Local Board objectives of making sure our parks and reserves are well equipped with the right facilities, while preserving open space, and making sure our playing surfaces, sports fields and recreational facilities are accessible, well maintained, open to the public, of high quality for all standards of play, and sufficient for our recreational needs. We are pleased that the masterplan provides the direction required to ensure Birkenhead War Memorial Park continues to meet community needs into the future.



John Gillon
Chairperson, Kaipātiki Local Board

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to all the volunteers and club members who have given hours of their time and helped the project team learn about the park and the great work done by the many organisations based there:

- Danny and Adrian from All Saints Birkenhead Scout Group
- Mary, from the Auckland Council Biosecurity team
- Stacey and Jef from Auckland Canoe Polo
- Andrew, Akash, Steve and Damian from the Birkenhead City Cricket Club
- Marcia, Colleen and Stuart from Birkenhead Heritage Society
- Arnie and Anastasia from Birkenhead Leisure Centre
- Jenette, Alice and Kavita from Birkenhead PlayCentre
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- Garry and Lynda, from the Birkenhead RSA
- Stuart, Sharon and Fiona from Birkenhead War Memorial Park Volunteers and PestFree Kaipatiki
- Calum, BMX jump users
- Gaye, Peter, Greg from Calliope Athletic and Harrier Club
- Nick and Stephen from North Harbour Triathlon Club
- Kennedy and Colin from the North Shore Resource Centre
- Simon, Jodi and Kieran from the Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union & Sports Club
- Jade and Bobbie from Northcote & Birkenhead Tigers Rugby League & Sports Club
- James, Garth, Alan and Patrick from North Shore Model Railway Club
- Grant Kenny, NZ Police
- Ross, Elisabeth, Jayden, Jerry, Brendan and Stuart from TheatreWorks / Mairangi Players

A special thanks also to Jill and Sonia from Kaipatiki Community Facilities Trust and the members of the Kaipatiki Youth Board and participants in the Children's Panel sessions!

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Executive summary

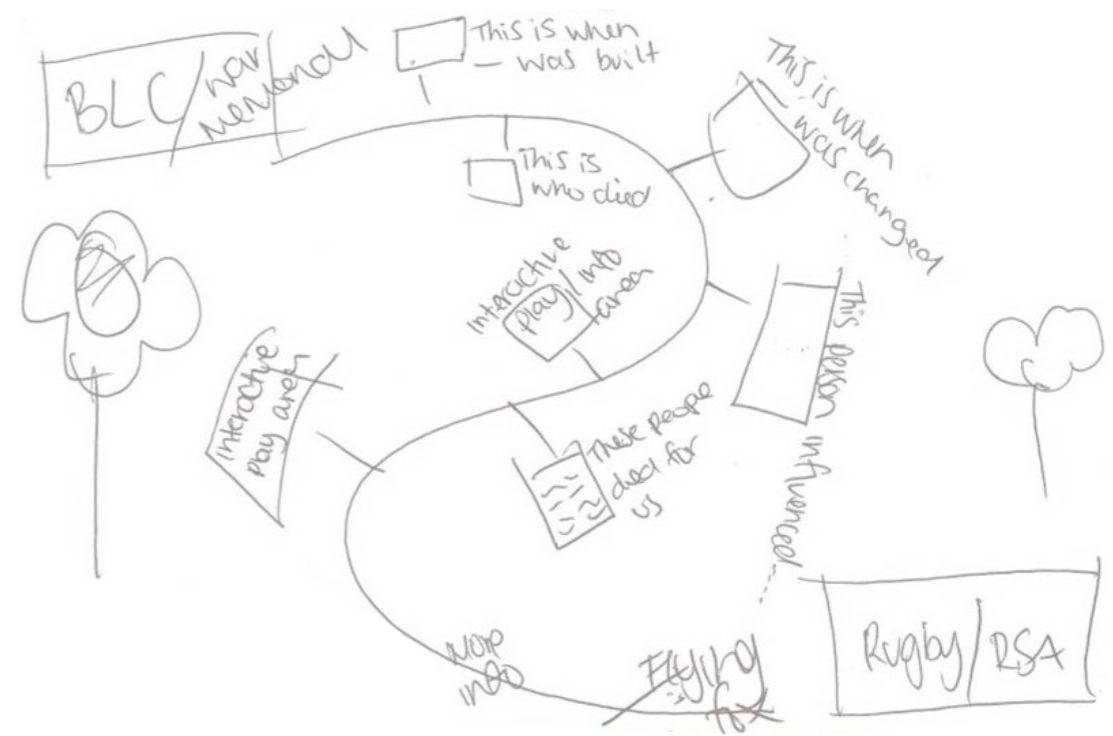
Birkenhead War Memorial Park provides Kaipātiki residents with the space to participate in community activities, play, sport, enjoy beautiful native bush, or take their children out to play. It is a large park serving a range of needs, and in writing a 30-year regeneration masterplan it is important both to meet those needs now and try to anticipate how the local community might want to use the park in the future.

This masterplan uses a principle-based approach to explore how space can be used for the greatest benefit going forward. It advocates for a shared facility model, recognising that many sports clubs and community groups who are based on the park have complementary activities and may not need dedicated buildings in the future. Flat open space is at a premium on the park, and by gradually reducing the number of structures on the park we can create opportunities for community events and more free play. Proposals such as moving car parking to the edges of the park and adding a shared cycling and walking track through the storm water gully help to transform the site into a unified space that people of all ages can use safely. Throughout the masterplan environmental protection and kaitiakitanga, or environmental guardianship, is prioritised. The addition of māra hūpara (Māori play elements), additional signage, and a new heritage trail emphasise the importance of mana whenua on the park, and the value of teaching current and future generations about local heritage and history.

Many of the projects within the masterplan are substantial pieces of work that will require considerable investment. We have reflected the anticipated implementation schedule of the projects in a table, to help the community understand when it can expect to see changes on the park. Projects like the redevelopment of community facilities on the Recreation Drive side of the park will not begin for at least 25 years, but in time this work will help even more people to access spaces for their activities. Reviewing activities on the park and thinking about how to use this space in the future also provides opportunities to ensure that issues such as climate change are considered. Taking a whole-of-life approach to new facilities and incorporating elements such as green design where possible will be integral to projects in the future.

As Auckland becomes a bigger and busier city, our parks will become increasingly important as places of respite and locations where people can stay fit and healthy. The Birkenhead War Memorial Park Masterplan helps to ensure that this park continues to serve the local community – now and into the future.





SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

WĀHANGA 1: KUPU WHAKATAKI

1.1 Introduction and background *Kupu whakataki me te kōrero horopaki*

“I express the hope that this fine Park will prove most useful and be appreciated for many generations, and that its true purpose will never be forgotten. May it ever serve as a reminder of what can happen when the spirit of greed and jealousy gets the upper hand. May the sacrifices of all who served our nation and the cause of freedom be not in vain”

Quote from Cliff Utting, extracted from the Mayor's forward, from the official opening of the War Memorial Park, 1958

1.1.1 Birkenhead War Memorial Park

Sitting on a 32-hectare site within the Kaipātiki Local Board area, the park is a short walk from Birkenhead village. It occupies a prominent location and is accessed from the Highbury Bypass via Mahara Avenue, and from Birkenhead Avenue, with additional pedestrian access points elsewhere in the park.

At least half of the park is covered with regenerating native bush, including mature kauri trees. The rest of the park contains playing fields, three historic cemeteries, a public swimming pool and leisure centre, and several diverse community facilities that cater to all age groups, from the youngest community members who grow and learn at Birkenhead Playcentre to the young-at-heart members of the Birkenhead RSA who still come together regularly to enjoy each other's company. It provides the local population and others from further afield with access to sport, leisure, recreation, cultural, and social spaces.

1.1.2 Cultural heritage of the area

Māori have inhabited areas of the North Shore (Te Whenua roa o Kahu), including Birkenhead and Northcote, since the early 1700s. Fortified pa were located at Te Onewa / Northcote Point and Te Matarea o Mana/ Kauri Point.

The Kaipātiki Local Board area gets its name from a kāinga located in the north of the region. The area is of high significance to iwi. It is their rohe (territory), and is home to significant tūpuna (ancestors), historical events, and numerous sites of significance. The area is also highly valued for its significant taonga (treasures) in the form of native biodiversity. These features, history, and sites help form a cultural landscape that is imbued with meaning for the iwi.

In Te Ao Māori knowledge of the workings of the environment and the perception of humanity as part of the natural and spiritual world is expressed in the concepts of mauri and kaitiaki. Mauri is the life force that is present in all things, the essential quality and vitality of a being or entity. Without mauri things cannot survive. It generates, regenerates and upholds creation, binding physical and spiritual elements of all things together.

Practices have been developed over many centuries to maintain the mauri of all parts of the world. Observing these practices involves the ethic and exercise of kaitiakitanga. Kaitiakitanga means managing and conserving the environment as part of a reciprocal relationship that we as humans are part of the natural world. The kaitiaki or tribal guardian can be spiritual or physical, human or non-human. The role of kaitiaki continues in current cultural and natural resource management.

1.1.3 Introducing the masterplan

A masterplan is a visionary document that sets out a 'road map' for how space may be used effectively in the future. This masterplan for Birkenhead War Memorial Park, or 'the park', is an aspirational 30-year plan designed to give Kaipātiki Local Board a framework for future decisions affecting investment and development of the park and its facilities. It is a 'regenerative' masterplan, which means it seeks to look at the site with fresh eyes and think about how the local community might want to use the space in the coming decades. We've developed the masterplan with extensive involvement from current users of the park, mana whenua, and local schools, and consulted on its content with the wider community in March – April 2019. Our role has been to hear the perspectives of all current and future users and try to balance competing needs to ensure that the park works well for the greatest number of people, now and in the future.

This masterplan provides space for existing groups and clubs on the park, and we've provided information about their history within the park later in this section. However, our aim has been to ensure that new groups and clubs might also find a home on the park in the future. We believe that this park has the potential to support even more members of the community going forward. It is important to keep in mind that many of the intended projects included in this masterplan will require extensive investigative work and the preparation of solid business cases to support the necessary investment, before the projects can proceed. However, this masterplan represents Kaipātiki Local Board's aspirational intentions for the development of the park for the future.

We acknowledge that the changes presented in this masterplan will have an impact on current users, and we also appreciate that it may be challenging both to wait for planned upgrades and, in the future, to use the park while building work takes place. Auckland Council and Kaipātiki Local Board will ensure that everything possible is done to support park users through the development of specific projects from this masterplan. This will include involving existing clubs and groups in the design of new facilities, to ensure that they're fit for purpose.

The park is a valuable open space asset that meets a wide range of community needs. This masterplan will help to ensure that the park can also meet the needs of tomorrow.

1.1.4 Reading the masterplan

This document is designed to inform the community about the vision for the park. It is organised into four sections:

- **Section 1** introduces the project and reminds readers about the park as it is now
- **Section 2** presents the design, explains the principles that have shaped it, and discusses the rationale behind the design.
- **Section 3** looks in more detail at specific projects that are generated by the masterplan, summarises the public consultation response to these proposed projects, provides further information about next steps and likely implementation, and sets out information about implementation.
- **Section 4** discusses the involvement of mana whenua, existing park users, and the wider community in the masterplanning process.

The appendices provide additional information about the context that has shaped this masterplan: the park's history; the statutory framework that governs how space can be used; and various physical and user-based factors that have been considered.

1.2 Location map *Mahere whenua tauwāhi*



- Legend**
-  Playground
 -  School

The site within its wider context . 1:12,000 @ A3

1.3 History of the park *Kōrero tuku iho mō te papa rēhia*

Prehistoric Māori settlement has occurred in the area in the 1700s. The general area is significant to all iwi groups in Tāmaki Makaurau - particularly Te Kawerau a Maki

Pre-european history

An acre of land was given by Major Isaac Cooper to the Anglican Church and the land was established as a cemetery for the Protestant communities of Birkenhead and Northcote

1864

The Birkenhead Anglican Cemetery is the site of the first recorded burial in Birkenhead, Margaret McCallum, wife of the Reverend A.M. McCallum

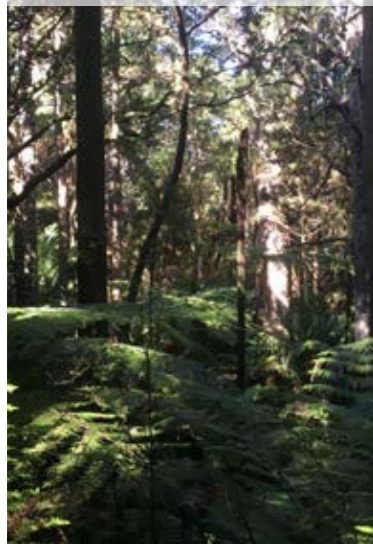
1880

Land was acquired as a recreation reserve to provide for the recreational needs of the Borough, including much needed sports grounds and recreational amenities, and to serve as a fitting memorial to the sacrifices made by those serving in the two World Wars. This included 45.5 acres of land and a dwelling purchased from Mr J.W.Court, seven acres from Mr C.J. Utting, and an additional 12 acres

1900

1950

The area was once covered in mature kauri forest.



1861

In 1861 a three-acre plot was transferred from local settler Philip Callan to the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, Jean Baptiste Francois Pompallier, for a token payment of 10 shillings sterling. This site also includes the area of Māori graves (urupā).

1887



Enlargement from 1887 map of Birkenhead and Northcote, by W.F. Hammond & Son Architects and Surveyors

1947

Proposed War Memorial Park

A Public Meeting of Ratepayers and Residents will be held in Foresters' Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st October, 1947, for the purpose of considering the Council's proposal for perpetuating the memory of the Birkenhead personnel who served their Country, 1939-1945.

The proposed lay-out of the scheme which takes the form of a Memorial Park, complete with Sports Area, Camping Grounds and Appropriate Buildings, appears on the back of this notice.

A coloured enlargement will be available for inspection at the meeting, together with plans, etc. of the proposed buildings.

Full details, outlining the whole scheme and including the estimated cost of same, will also be submitted for your approval.

This is your opportunity to show your interest and appreciation of the service and sacrifice of our Birkenhead men and women.

A full attendance of ratepayers and residents to discuss and decide this most important matter is earnestly requested.

E. J. OSBORNE,
Mayor

Remember! — The date
The place
The object: to fittingly
commemorate the service of the
Birkenhead personnel in World
War II

1958

Birkenhead War Memorial Park was formally opened by Governor General Lord Cobham on the 19th April. It included sports fields, a grandstand, sports pavilion and a memorial shrine containing the names of over six hundred men and women from the area who served overseas in both wars.

1963 aerial photograph, from Auckland Council GIS



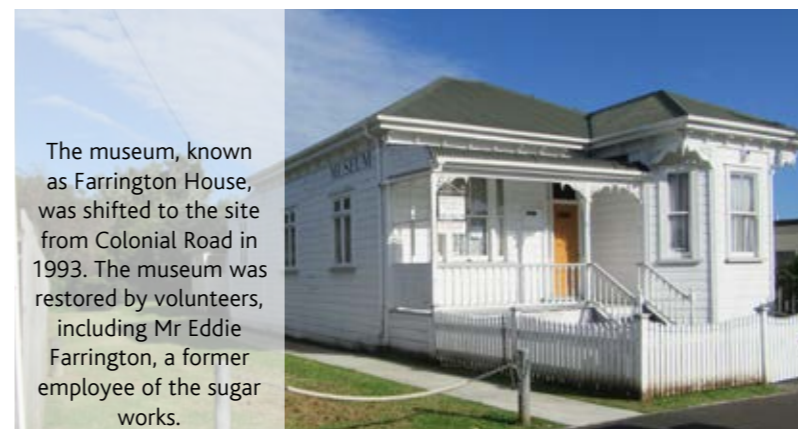
1963

The rugby and cricket grounds were formed in the 1960's. Extensive earthworks were required to create the level playing fields. The clubrooms and halls along Recreation Drive were also established

1960's - 1970's

Transfer of the Anglican Cemetery to Birkenhead City Council for the token sum of 10 cents

1980



The museum, known as Farrington House, was shifted to the site from Colonial Road in 1993. The museum was restored by volunteers, including Mr Eddie Farrington, a former employee of the sugar works.

1993



The grandstand was demolished

2018



1975

2000

1961

On Anzac Day a Book of Remembrance was unveiled in the shrine, listing the names of the 66 men from both World Wars who had given their lives.

1971

The Osborne Memorial Swimming Pool was opened

1970

The Birkenhead War Memorial Hall was opened behind the shrine on the 25th April. Today the hall is a recreation centre.



Vienna Place and Birkenhead War Memorial Park, Birkenhead, Auckland. Whites Aviation Ltd :Photographs. Ref: WA-71381-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. / records/23090352

1973

1987

The Catholic Cemetery was gifted by Bishop Browne to birkenhead City Council, with a portion of the land to be held as a reserve and named after Bishop Pompallier (now Pompallier Park)

2001



2001 aerial photograph, from Auckland Council GIS

1.4 Existing buildings, structures and recreation facilities

Ngā whare kua tū kē, ngā whakatūranga me ngā whakaurunga ā-rēhia



1.5 Current clubs and groups on the park *Ngā karapu, rōpū hoki i te papa rēhia*

The following clubs and community groups are based at the park as of the publication date of this masterplan (2019). We hope that the changes proposed in this masterplan will enable more clubs and groups to use the park in the future.



Calliope Birkenhead Athletic and Harrier Club

Calliope Birkenhead Athletic and Harrier Club has been intrinsically linked with the Birkenhead community since 1930, and with the Birkenhead War Memorial Park since 1964 when Calliope members established the first athletics track there. In fact, Calliope's history predates the park's inauguration with members having competed in races on the empty fields.

During our 55 years at the War Memorial Park, Calliope has provided an opportunity to participate in athletics to an estimated 10,000 children and adults from our local community. The central location, connection with other sports organisations, and ready access to local bush tracks make the Park an ideal location for Calliope.

When we enter through the Park gates and step onto the track, we honour the memory of our former members who established athletics at the Park and in our community, and follow in the footsteps of those thousands of children and adults who have gone before.



Birkenhead Playcentre

Birkenhead Playcentre is an early childhood centre entirely run by parents who are involved in their children's learning. It is a free-play, parent-led environment for children aged 0-6 years. Children learn through play and our child-initiated play philosophy means that they are free to choose their own activities. All early childhood centres in New Zealand follow the curriculum statement called Te Whaariki. This national curriculum covers every aspect of children's learning and development.

Our centre has enjoyed more than 57 wonderful years at the park. It was built in 1962 in the beautiful park grounds on Recreation Drive and the building has had recent building renovations to cater to the thriving family involvement that it attracts year after year. We currently have 35 families attending and up to 30 children attending sessions every week day. Our tamariki and parents often enjoy the bush surroundings on bush walks during session times.



Mairangi Players

Mairangi Players is a community theatre group that has been at the leading edge of the North Shore theatre scene in Auckland since 1952. We moved to our current location in Birkenhead approximately 20 years later, where we own and operate our 70-seat theatre - TheatreWorks - in Recreation Drive.

The club puts on up to four productions per year, for a mix of all ages. Our main aim is to foster a love of theatre, with the idea that anyone can 'give it a go' in our local community. Our venue is also used by other community groups, for productions and improvisation workshops and events. In conjunction with Thespianage, we also host Creative Drama classes for kids and teenagers. One reason that we love our location in Recreation Drive is that we have been able to build solid and collegial relationships with the other arts and cultural groups near us.



North Shore Resource Centre

The North Shore Resource Centre was established in 1985 in response to local community need as a centre that could store, sort and distribute art and craft resources, materials and factory offcuts to local community groups and organizations, including schools, early childhood centres and kindergartens. The Centre was set up in Sunnybrae Road and then moved to Wairau Road in 1996. In 2015 the Centre relocated to 44 Mahara Ave as part of the Birkenhead War Memorial Park. The current premises is behind Birkenhead Museum, which works extremely well because of its central location on the North Shore and its close association and connection to the park.

The North Shore Resource Centre is a sustainably based charity and non-profit organization that aims to divert waste from landfill. It's run by a committed team of about 25 volunteers and operates on Saturdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm.



All Saints Birkenhead Scout Group

All Saints Birkenhead Scout Group has operated in the park since the 1960's and is the original occupant of the eastern side of the park.

The group comprises over 130 young people, both boys and girls, ranging in ages from five to 18, with over 40 adult members of the group supporting them as Leaders, committee members and adult helpers. Scouting seeks to develop the leadership skills and character of our youth in a supportive environment focussed on utilizing the outdoors and small teams. Jamborees remain the highlight for many, with 28 Scouts travelling to Mystery Creek from the group to attend the next one at the end of this year.



North Shore Model Railway Club

The North Shore Model Railway Club was formed in 1965. We moved to Recreation Drive shortly afterwards, and our building has been extended twice since then. It contains an extensive workshop, lounge, portable railway layout storage, and specialised equipment like a spray booth and electrical test bench. The entire second floor contains one of the largest model railway layouts in New Zealand a permanent structure that has been constantly improved over the decades and draws in members and the public alike.

Our 55 club members meet two or three times a week and include people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. We hold open days for the public 4-6 times a year and we also take our portable layouts out to shows and exhibitions. Our clubrooms have been a highlight of our hobby nationwide and we hope it will continue to be so. We now have third generation modellers in our club and continue to work with our youth to keep our hobby thriving.



Auckland Canoe Polo

Auckland Canoe Polo was formed in the early 80's and we have been playing Canoe Polo at the Osborne Pool in Birkenhead War Memorial Park since the late 90's.

At Birkenhead we play social but competitive games, and it is a great environment for developing players to test their skills and move up the ranks. Many of the original players are still involved now.

Junior players come to Birkenhead from the Schools competition at Northcote College, just down the road. Stronger players move to our regional teams who train and play at Quarry Lake next to Lake Pupuke. A number of players who started out at Birkenhead have represented New Zealand at the Oceania Canoe Polo Champs, Canoe Polo World Champs, and World Games.



Birkenhead City Cricket Club

Birkenhead City Cricket Club has been fostering the love of Cricket in the Kaipatiki area since 1898. Since the 1950s we have been based at Birkenhead War Memorial. We feel a deep connection to the park – this is our home and we're proud to be part of such a wonderful facility in a beautiful natural environment. Currently we help more than 1,000 local cricket players and supporters of all ages from 5 to 75 enjoy Cricket at our wonderful home.

BCCC has contributed significantly to the park over the years, especially in the building of the Mahara Ave clubrooms which our members contributed to the building of through both fundraising and volunteer building hours. These clubrooms now provide homes for three separate clubs following the removal of the grandstand. We're looking forward to playing a key role in the park for many years to come.



Northcote 'Tigers' Rugby League Club

Northcote 'Tigers' Rugby League Club was founded 1910. Initially 'home' was 'Clows' paddock in Gladstone Rd, Northcote and then Stafford Park became headquarters.

Northcote Tigers has a long association with Birkenhead War Memorial Park and the park is considered the spiritual home of the Tigers, central to the club's traditional base. Rugby League has been played at BHWMP since the 1960's and considerable investment was made by the club into the park with the development of the No. 2 fields. Over the years, the Tigers have utilised the playing fields, the old Grandstand, changing rooms and have hosted many memorable sporting and community events.

Today, the Northcote Tigers has a strong commitment to the local community providing services for youth and is a year-round club encompassing Rugby League, Netball, Softball, Tag & Touch Football teams.



North Shore Music Theatre

In 1963 the North Shore Operatic Society was founded by a group of passionate Auckland residents. North Shore Music Theatre (as it's now called) is an award-winning theatre company that produces some of the best musical theatre productions in Auckland. In 1968 we purchased and relocated its club rooms onto its current site on the park, and since then the space has been extended and modified to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The club has a proud history of delivering spectacular productions from small stage to full-scale major musicals at venues like the Bruce Mason Centre and the Civic Theatre and has performed more than 100 shows. Our club rooms are at the centre of all our activity, and our life members and current members have given a massive amount of their time to ensure the success of the club.



Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union and Sports Club Inc.

The NBRUSC moved to its current Harvey Wright Grounds in Birkenhead War Memorial Park 30 years ago, building clubrooms to the south of the Birkenhead RSA.

The Club is now 90 years old and has more than 370 Juniors (both boys and girls) and five Senior teams, and a strong Sevens team with a supporter base of more than 500 registered members. The Club has won the North Harbour Rugby Union Premier 1 and 2 competitions and North Harbour Club of the Year for the past two seasons, and at the time of writing (winter 2019) the Premier 1 team has qualified for the North Harbour Rugby Union Championships final for the third year in a row.

The NBRUSC has a five-year strategic plan and a goal of becoming the most successful sports club across the wider Auckland isthmus. NBRUSC officials have been involved in the masterplan consultation process and are eager to see better utilisation of the full expanse of the park by all sectors of the community.



North Harbour Triathlon Club

North Harbour Triathlon Club is one of the oldest triathlon clubs in New Zealand. It was formed in 1986 and incorporated in 1988. The club has been training at Osborne Pool and Birkenhead Leisure Centre since 1996. Membership fluctuates between 200 and 300 members. Membership is diverse with novice through to Olympic athletes, 12 year olds to octogenarians. NHTC runs 10 official training sessions from Birkenhead War Memorial Park year-round (except for Christmas Day). Birkenhead War Memorial Park is the perfect training base for NHTC due to the ability to swim year-round in an outdoor heated pool, bike indoors (on wind trainers) and run from one base.

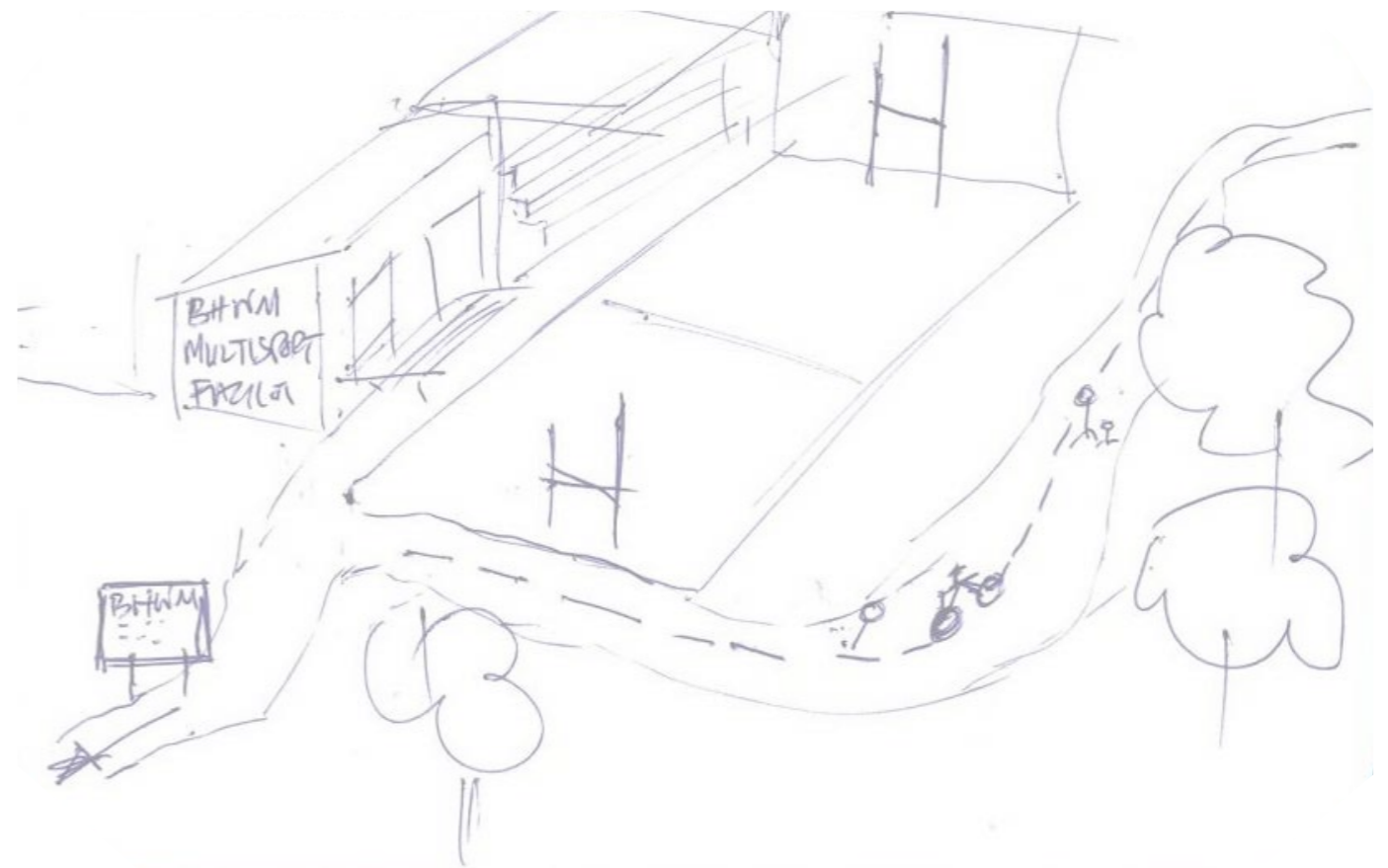
Other clubs and organisations based or with an interest in the Park are:

- Birkenhead Heritage Society
- Birkenhead RSA
- Birkenhead War Memorial Park parks volunteers





California quail (*Callipepla californica*)



SECTION 2: MASTERPLAN *WĀHANGA 2: TE MAHERE MATUA*

2.1 Design principles *Ngā mātāpono hoahoa*

Community-led design

The broad theme of kaitiakitanga – guardianship of the land – underpins this masterplan. It is important that all activity on the park reflects the principle of minimising environmental impacts to ensure that future generations can also enjoy its bush and open spaces. The design themes of 'connection', 'community', and 'celebration' sum up the feedback received from mana whenua, current site users, and the wider community. These terms capture a range of dimensions that are represented in the words below.



Connection

people wider community park users Birkenhead tourists inter-generational locals Aucklanders all ages and abilities whanau multi-use facility diverse user groups **natural environment** native flora & fauna wildlife corridors War Memorial cultures **history** recreational open space **leisure** access and connectivity around park way finding and signage connection to Highbury Centre Schools local transport network **ecology** walkways neighbourhood parks

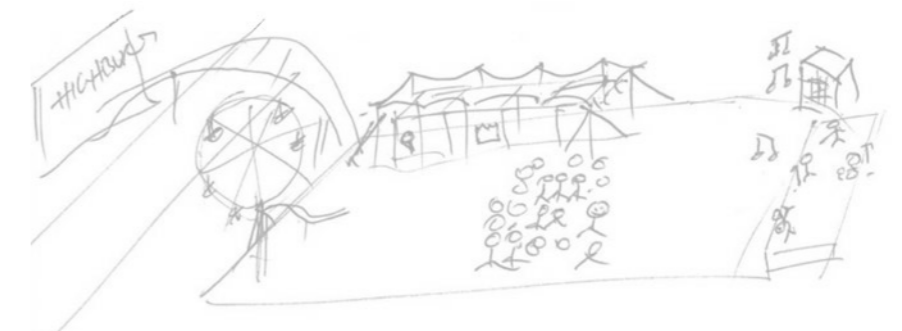


Community

people **park users** tourists locals Aucklanders intergenerational **all ages and abilities** Multi-use sports facility **whanau** education active and passive recreation diverse user groups **leisure** sense of belonging Mātāwaka **play** publicity and awareness arts and culture precinct movies markets **events space** festivals music **culture** mana whenua neighbours safety local schools and businesses **accessibility** friends

Celebration

people park users **sports** active lifestyles history Birkenhead whanau family sacrifice **heritage** arts and culture community Pompallier Park **War Memorial** belonging Birkenhead Anglican & Catholic Cemetery **culture** Urupā respite **natural environment** peace diversity



2.2 Te Aranga Principles reflected in the masterplan





Ngā Mātāpono ā-Te Aranga e kitea ana i roto i te mahere matua

Te Aranga Principles are founded on the core Māori cultural values of:

- **Rangatiratanga:** The right to exercise authority and self-determination within one's own iwi / hapū realm
- **Kaitiakitanga:** managing and conserving the environment as part of a reciprocal relationship, based on the Māori world view that we as humans are part of the natural world
- **Manaakitanga:** the ethic of holistic hospitality whereby mana whenua have inherited obligations to be the best hosts they can be
- **Wairuatanga:** the immutable spiritual connection between people and their environments
- **Kotahitanga:** unity, cohesion and collaboration
- **Whanaungatanga:** a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging
- **Mātauranga:** Māori / mana whenua knowledge and understanding

The principles are used to support good design and embed Māori outcomes into design.

Integrating Te Aranga Principles into the masterplan enabled these cultural values and narratives to underpin the design process. The outcomes relevant to each of the values presented in the Principles are described in this table:

<p>4 TAIAO The Natural Environment</p> 	<p>5 MAURI TU Environmental Health</p> 	<p>6 MAHI TOI Creative Expression</p> 	<p>7 AHI KA The Living Presence</p> 
<p>Outcome: The natural environment is protected, restored and enhanced</p>	<p>Outcome: Environmental health is protected, maintained and/or enhanced</p>	<p>Outcome: Iwi/hapū narratives are captured and expressed creatively and appropriately through engagement with mana whenua</p>	<p>Outcome: Iwi/hapū have a living and enduring presence and are secure and valued within their rohe</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance all native ecosystems • Protect from kauri dieback (Trigene stations at track entrances) and myrtle rust • Upgrade pathways to protect kauri • Stormwater/wetland enhancement • Investigate stream daylighting options • Investigate pest/predator proof fencing (NB: not deemed practical at this park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work to improve water quality • Ongoing management of plant and animal pests to protect native species • Staged removal of pines and other exotic species, with native species replacing them • Exclusive use of native planting in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Māra hūpara provides an educational opportunity on the park • Māori cultural art opportunities • Interpretative panels/information, including at entrance (formal and informal) • Relevant narratives could be māra hūpara, urupā, Māori Battalion, kauri... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hireable space available to use • Pa harakeke for cultural harvest • Māori cultural art and design opportunities • Māra hūpara helps to acknowledge Māori history in the area

<p>1 MANA Rangatiratanga, Authority</p> 	<p>2 WHAKAPAPA Names and Naming</p> <p>ā</p>	<p>3 TOHU The Wider Cultural Landscape</p> 
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Outcome:
The status of iwi and hapū as mana whenua is recognised and respected as a council partner

KEY THEMES FROM WORKSHOP

- Mana whenua partnering with council staff throughout design process
- New informational signage and opportunities for park naming to reflect mana whenua involvement
- Māra hūpara provides opportunities to teach about tikanga (Māori customs) and cultural narratives

Outcome:
Māori names are celebrated

- Signage and wayfinding to express correct ancestral names
- Identify any names from the Māori Battalion in the Roll of Honour and Book of Remembrance

Outcome:
Mana whenua significant sites and cultural landmarks are acknowledged

- Signage and wayfinding to reflect the presence of significant sites, including kauri, urupā (Māori burial ground), and Eskdale Stream/waterways and wetland
- Heritage trails to include iwi history in and around the park
- Potential for māra hūpara augmented reality features to bring the cultural narratives of hūpara to life




















2.3 Masterplan *Te Mahere Matua*

2.3.1 Key moves

The main changes proposed in the masterplan are summarised in this table:

From...	To...
Ageing facilities	New, fit-for-purpose, flexible facilities
Many facilities taking up a lot of space	Fewer facilities providing more space for people to enjoy the park
Cars dominating the park	People dominating the park
Limited play options	Increased opportunities for young people to play and have fun
Building space only for existing sports clubs and community groups	Building space with flexibility, able to accommodate new users in the future
A disjointed space that feels like two separate parks, divided by a stormwater gully	A cohesive park with good connections and activity throughout the site
No information about the history and ecology of the park	Plentiful information to remind users that the park is an important space to be treasured

LEGEND

	Site boundary		Pedestrian / cycleway - secondary (existing & proposed)
	Native bush		Service vehicle access
	Amenity planting		Existing carparking to remain
	Riparian planting		Proposed carparking
	Stream / waterway		Existing buildings to remain
	Specimen / shade trees		Picnic areas
	Bush / informal tracks - primary (existing & proposed)		Interpretative signage
	Bush / informal tracks - secondary (existing & proposed)		Wayfinding signage
	Bush / informal tracks - secondary (existing & proposed)		Proposed heritage trail
	Pedestrian / cycleway - primary (existing & proposed)		



2.3.2 Zones on the park

As shown on the masterplan map on page 18, we've organised the park to include several different zones. This section of the masterplan provides more detail about the various projects and initiatives that are proposed for the next 30 years on the park.



Arts / Culture / Heritage

- Birkenhead RSA
- North Shore Music Theatre; Mairangi Players / Theatreworks (shared or clustered facilities)
- Model Railway Club
- Birkenhead Farrington House Museum; War Memorial Shrine
- Plaza / events space
- Historic cemeteries; Heritage trail to link the park and the cemeteries
- Māori cultural narratives, art, and design



Sports & Recreation

- Birkenhead Rugby Club and sports fields at Recreation Drive
- Sports fields and athletics facilities at Mahara Avenue
- Multi-use sport facility at Mahara Avenue with leisure centre, flexible indoor court space, a climbing wall, public changing facilities, and club rooms and changing rooms to accommodate sports clubs based on the Mahara Avenue side of the park
- Terraced seating / bleachers



Aquatic Facilities

- Improvements to outdoor swimming pool to extend life
- Expanded water play area



Education

- All Saints Birkenhead Scouts; Birkenhead Playcentre (shared or clustered facilities)
- North Shore Resource Centre
- 'Education Outside the Classroom' facilities
- Cultural narratives, tikanga, and histories



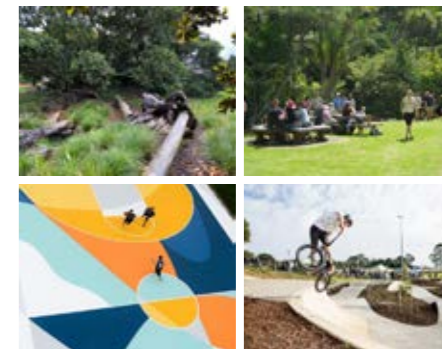
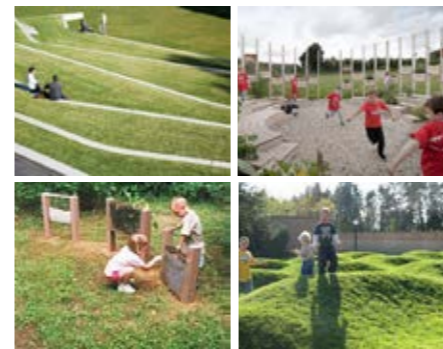
Environment / Ecology

- Native bush
- Revegetation and enhancement of native bush
- Boardwalks and walkways
- Weed and pest control



Play & Informal Recreation

- Skate park and pump track
- Playground
- Māra hūpara
- Nature play
- Picnic areas
- Space for additional leisure facilities (e.g., basketball, beach volleyball)





How do we create a park that provides for diverse use(r)s and still feels like one?

2.4 A park for everybody *He papa rēhia mō te katoa*

Our vision for the park is:

1. **A place to play, be active, and participate**
2. **A place to learn and celebrate**
3. **A place where nature is protected**
4. **A place to connect with others**
5. **A place that provides for changing community needs**

The masterplan design illustration shows the park as a place to participate, train, play, learn, and socialise. It makes some changes to the current layout of the park, focusing on bringing together groups, organisations, and activities into themed areas with clustered or shared facilities. Over the next 30 years it transforms the park into a space with capacity for more users, greater opportunities to enjoy the natural environment, and enhanced walking and cycling spaces.

On the western side of the park (off Mahara Avenue) the multi-use sport facility focuses on sport and leisure. It offers shared public and club space close to the aquatic facilities and will be designed to cater for the needs of the sports clubs currently

using this side of the park. The public plaza that will one day be created will create space for park users to enjoy a wide range of community events, with increased outdoor leisure facilities providing more reasons to visit the park.

On the eastern side (off Birkenhead Avenue / on Recreation Drive) the Birkenhead RSA and rugby club buildings remain, but in the long term the intention is to reduce the number of smaller buildings on the site. Doing this will provide capacity to create an open public space that could be used by clubs, community groups, and visitors to the park. Our vision is to create two precincts: an educational precinct and an arts and culture precinct.

The education precinct will include Birkenhead All Saints Scouts, Birkenhead Playcentre, the North Shore Resource Centre, and an outdoor classroom. Ideally this would include a shared building with dedicated spaces for each group, but another option could be to cluster existing buildings by moving some from their current sites. The arts and culture precinct will, in time, include a shared, flexible facility, designed in partnership with the theatre and community groups that would use it. However, plans to change or reconfigure the Recreation Drive buildings

are long term aspirations only: there are no short-term plans to substantially change this space. Eventually the arts and culture precinct could be further consolidated if Birkenhead Farrington House Museum was moved from its current site in Mahara Avenue to a new Recreation Drive location, enabling stronger links between the museum and nearby historical cemeteries.

Casual and frequent park users alike will benefit from increased open space throughout the park. The site will be linked by the development of māra hūpara (a nature play space that uses traditional Māori play principles to offer children the opportunity to learn about Māori culture while enjoying exciting outdoor play), a picnic area, and improved pathways for cyclists and pedestrians across and around the park. The park will become more people-friendly when car parking is gradually moved to the edges of the site at both sides of the park.

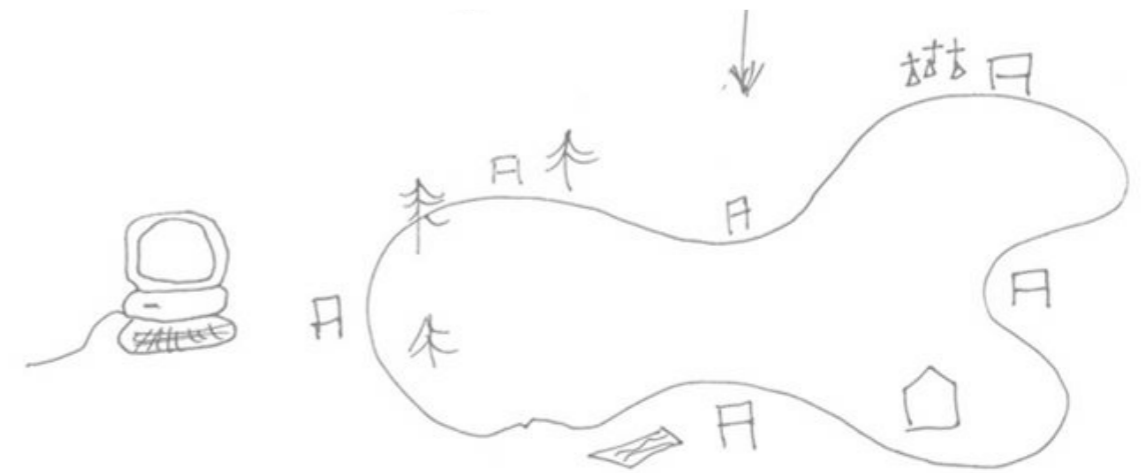
Throughout the park improved signage will make it easier for users to navigate the space and move between different areas. New informational signage will increase local knowledge about the park's historical, cultural, and natural history, and current activities.

2.5 Benefits of the new design *Ngā hua o te hoahoa hou*

More open green space for people to enjoy **New multi-use facilities to house clubs and organisations**
Increased capacity for community events **Opportunities to leverage and support partnerships between organisations**
Sustainable use of resources that work for the greatest number of users **A wider range of activities for users of the park** **Easier navigation and movement for users within the park**
Greater understanding of the park's ecological and cultural significance



Aerial of Mahara Ave entrance and facilities



SECTION 3: PROJECTS
WĀHANGA 3: KAUPAPA WHAKAHAERE

3.1 Implementing the masterplan *Te whakatinana i te mahere matua*

Each of the changes presented in the masterplan is a separate project. There are significant funding implications that will need to be addressed before projects can proceed.

The scale of investment needed was highlighted as a concern by respondents during the public consultation. However, Kaipātiki Local Board has chosen the implementation of the masterplan as its 'One Local Initiative' (OLI). The OLI 10 Year Programme is a programme of works established as part of the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 process to enable each local board to prioritise one project to receive funding and support its delivery.

Some funding has already been earmarked for projects, but releasing this funding for each of the projects is subject to the approval of a business case. Each element of the masterplan would also require the usual stages of project planning, including the design of the new facilities, resource consents, and tendering processes.

The table below summarises all projects included in the draft masterplan, the timeline for implementation, the priority level of the project, and how they will be implemented / who will lead the implementation.

Public consultation confirmed that the wider community's key priorities were: the development of the multi-sport facility at the Mahara Avenue side of the park; the redevelopment of the pool area; and the development of the cycle and pedestrian link between the two sides of the parks. Section 3 discusses these and other projects in more detail.

Figure 1: Project summary table

Project	Project reference	Project component	Priority	Anticipated start	Anticipated duration	Anticipated cost	Funding		Next step	To note
							Potential Source	Confirmed		
Multi-use facility	1	N/A	High	2019/2020	7 to 10 years	High	One Local Initiative (OLI)		Development of detailed business case to confirm funding	High complexity project; facility to be designed with input from key stakeholders
Aquatic facilities	2a	Splash pad / water play provision	High	2019/2020	3 to 5 years	High	One Local Initiative (OLI)		Development of detailed business case to confirm funding	Based on recent condition assessment, no changes proposed to current pool, but ongoing maintenance and renewal required
Environmental protection	8a	Ecological restoration	High	Ongoing	Ongoing	Medium	Locally Driven Initiative Operational funding (LDI Opex)		Local Board to allocate funding for development of restoration plan	Restoration plan to include 5-year detailed work programme and costings
	8b	Bush track improvements	High	2019/2020	3 to 5 years	Medium	Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)	Asset based services funding / Renewals		Upgrades, and where appropriate closures, of existing tracks for kauri protection
History and heritage	10a	Interpretative signage	High	2020/2021	2 to 3 years	Low to medium	Locally Driven Initiative Capital funding (LDI Capex)		Local Board to allocate funding	Signage, also consider digital storytelling; could be delivered as community-led project
	10b	Heritage trail from historic cemeteries to Recreation Drive/ RSA	High	2020/2021	1 to 2 years	Low	LDI Capex		Local Board to allocate funding	Could be delivered as community-led project
	10c	Events, celebrations	Medium	2020/2021	Ongoing	Low	LDI Opex			Potential for events, celebrations to tell local stories
Entrance and directional signage	11	N/A	High	2020/2021	2 to 3 years	Low to medium	LDI Capex		Local Board to allocate LDI Capex funding	
Removal of BMX jumps in bush (behind lower cricket pitch)	9	N/A	Low to medium	2020/2021	Six months to one year	Low	LDI Opex			Removal of jumps and debris in the surrounding area and remediation
Pedestrian and cycle track	6	Track to connect Mahara Avenue and Recreation Drive	Medium	2018/2019	2 to 3 years	Low to medium		Local Board Capital Transport Fund - Funded	Local Board to approve concept design	Concept design for this has started
Māra hūpara	7	Including interpretation	Medium	2019/2020	2 to 3 years	Low to medium	LDI Capex for implementation of concept	Concept design funded through Māori Outcomes Steering Group	Concept design to be developed in partnership with mana whenua and Healthy Waters	
Car parking - relocations	4a	Mahara Avenue	Medium	2029/2030	2 to 3 years	Medium	One Local Initiative (OLI)		Development of detailed business case to confirm funding	Dependent on removal of leisure centre
	4b	Recreation Drive	Low	2034/2035	Tbc	Medium	Beyond 10 year timeframe			
Recreation Drive redevelopment	5		Low	2034/2035	Tbc	High	Beyond 10 year timeframe			
War Memorial Shrine	3	Project won't be progressed at this stage, but when work progresses on the Mahara Avenue side of the park, a new home for the shrine will need to be found								

3.2 Multi-use sport facility *He whakaurunga tikanga-maha*

3.2.1 Project details

The most significant addition planned for the park is a new multi-use facility. This would replace the demolished grandstand and the existing clubrooms and would also house the leisure centre, replacing the facilities that are provided in the current leisure centre building (which is an ageing asset). It would include flexible indoor court spaces, a climbing wall, and shared clubrooms. The aim is to reduce the amount of park space taken up with buildings and increase capacity for new activities on the park. The sports clubs that are already based on the Mahara Avenue side of the park – Birkenhead City Cricket Club, Calliope Athletic and Harrier Club, Northcote & Birkenhead Tigers Rugby League & Sports Club, and North Harbour Triathlon Club – would all be actively involved in the design of this new facility, and there would also be capacity to include other organisations.



3.2.2 Consultation response

During our consultation we asked the community if it supported the plans for a new multi-use sport facility, and their response made it clear that this is a very popular proposal: 87% of respondents supported it, and it was also ranked as the highest-priority project. It was seen as a pragmatic way to provide space for several sports clubs.

People who did not support this proposal or who were unsure about it were primarily concerned about the scale of investment that would be required, the lack of shelter available for casual spectators, and the risk of individual clubs' losing their unique identities without their own spaces. Some clubs also expressed concern about how a shared facility would be managed, with issues such as liquor licenses being raised as elements that would need to be resolved. In parallel with the design work for the facility, Council staff will work with the clubs to develop an operating model for the facility.

Issues regarding spaces for spectators and clubs' identities can be addressed during the design phase of the project.

One consideration raised in the consultation was the need to provide temporary clubroom facilities on the park during the construction process. We agree that this would be essential to ensure the ongoing feasibility of the sports clubs based on this side of the park, and this will be factored into project planning.

Some respondents also raised the issue of whether the athletics facilities can be upgraded with the inclusion of a full 400m running track. Unfortunately, the shape and topography of the site makes this would only be possible with significant retaining and cost. There are 400m tracks elsewhere in the Kaipātiki local board area at Onewa Domain and Sovereign Stadium (AUT Millennium, Upper Harbour Local Board area) and Metro Park (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area).

3.2.3 Timeline and next steps

This project will be a complex piece of work, and it will take several years to complete. However, Kaipātiki Local Board has received the clear message that the community would like this project to proceed as soon as possible and will prioritise it accordingly.

The next steps for the development of the project are the development of a business case, release of earmarked funding by Auckland Council, detailed project planning and design.



Screenshot of exploratory work to try and accommodate a full 400m athletics track at the park

3.3 Aquatic facilities *Ngā whakaurunga ā-wai*

3.3.1 Project details

The existing swimming pool at the park is a very popular local facility, used by casual swimmers, Auckland Canoe Polo, and North Harbour Triathlon Club. However, the site lacks water play features that help to make swimming pools a family destination.

When this project started there were also concerns that the pool was a rapidly ageing facility that would soon reach the end of its useful life because of concerns about land stability and the state of the asset. The good news is that recent assessments found that the pool is in sound condition and does not need to be replaced. Some work is recommended over the next years to extend the lifetime of the pool for another 30 years.

As well as doing this work, a new splash pad/ dedicated water play area will be created, and some improvements will be made to make the aquatic facilities more attractive. To create space for these new facilities it is necessary to remove the existing high ropes course.



3.3.2 Consultation response

The proposed redevelopment of the existing aquatic facilities received very high support from the community, with 86% agreeing that this project should proceed. Respondents agreed that a family-friendly pool with appropriate supporting facilities, such as picnic space and improved changing rooms, would make the site even more attractive for local families. Overall there was strong support to retain this asset as an outdoor pool and

support its use as a lap pool, and the prospect of additional water play facilities, such as a splash pad, was welcomed by those who submitted responses. There are no splash pads in Kaipātiki at present, so adding one to this park will give local children a new play opportunity.

People who did not support this proposal were mainly concerned about the cost of the project.

In the comments submitted for this part of the consultation there were requests for pool design to support specific activities, include canoe polo and diving. Requests of this type need to be balanced against the provision of similar specific facilities provided elsewhere in the Kaipātiki Local Board area, the North Shore, and Auckland as a whole, depending on the participation rate of the activity being considered. For example, there are deep water facilities at nearby Glenfield Pool, and canoe polo is primarily played at Quarry Lake in Takapuna. The challenge for this site is to balance the specific needs of individual sporting codes with the broader needs of the community.

Some submitters did express disappointment that the high ropes course would be removed, and wondered whether it could be reinstated elsewhere in the park. Unfortunately there isn't a suitable site on the park, and the broader consensus is that this facility is under-used because it requires trained staff to supervise children who visit it. The development of the planned māra hūpara will provide new play experiences on the park, and these will incorporate some elements of risk that aren't provided in typical playgrounds.

3.3.3 Timeline and next steps

When the draft plan was offered to consultation there was uncertainty regarding the current condition of the pool and leisure centre, and concerns that these elements would need to be replaced very soon. However, subsequent condition assessments have confirmed that the leisure centre will continue to function well for approximately 10 years and the pool, with some investment, another 30 years. This means that redeveloping these facilities is less urgent. We acknowledge that the community response prioritised redevelopment of the pool area, but given the investment required for the planned multi-use sports facility, it is sensible to delay changing the existing pool until it becomes necessary. In the interim, plans will be developed to remove the high ropes course and replace it with a splash pad. This is likely to be completed within the next three to five years.

3.4 War Memorial Shrine *Te Toma Whakamahara Pakanga*

3.4.1 Project details

The War Memorial Shrine is currently found in its original location at the front of what was once the War Memorial Hall, but in recent decades has been the leisure centre. Given that the entire park is a war memorial – not just the shrine itself – our suggestion was that the War Memorial Shrine might be better located on the Recreation Drive side of the park, near the Birkenhead RSA building. We felt that this would enable stronger links with other current and planned heritage features on the park, and that moving the Shrine would also support events like ANZAC Day commemorations that actively involve the Birkenhead RSA. We also felt that moving the Shrine close to the Birkenhead RSA could enable the re-establishment of memorial features that have not been maintained, such as the ritual of turning a page in the Book of Remembrance every day.

3.4.2 Consultation response

Although we did receive support for this proposal from 71% of respondents during our consultation period, 23% of submitters were unsure, and recommended that we engage primarily with the Birkenhead RSA before making a final decision. Those who did support the proposal agreed that it was a logical move and suggested that it would be easier for veterans to access the War Memorial Shrine if it was near the Birkenhead RSA building.

However, the Birkenhead RSA did not support the proposal in its submission. Its concern was that the Shrine would be less visible at the Recreation Drive side of the park, and that there was not enough open space available to accommodate ANZAC Day events.

To better understand the Birkenhead RSA's concerns the masterplanning team met with the Birkenhead RSA committee and general manager. We now understand that the primary issue is how the logistics of the annual ANZAC Day parade would work if the commemorations were held at a different location: whether veterans would be able to walk from the start to the end of the march route, for example, and how people would move around. The Birkenhead RSA also expressed concern that there simply isn't enough space at the Recreation Drive side of the park for the large number of people that attend the commemorations each year.

Although we think there would be enough space for large public gatherings in the future, once planned changes are made to the Recreation Drive side of the park to move or replace existing buildings and develop a public open space, we accept that this is not yet the case. We also note the new memorial that has been installed next to the Birkenhead RSA since the public consultation was held, and we acknowledge that this provides a more local focus for Birkenhead RSA-led commemorations beyond the ANZAC Day event at the existing War Memorial Shrine.

We would suggest that it may be appropriate to move the Book of Remembrance from the War Memorial Shrine and create a suitable location for it within the Birkenhead RSA premises, subject to the Birkenhead RSA committee's approval. In the longer term, the redevelopment of the Recreation Drive side of the park may present a good opportunity to once again consider moving the War Memorial Shrine, provided that the various logistical challenges could be addressed.

3.4.3 Timeline and next steps

As we have agreed that this project should not be progressed in the short term, there are no agreed next steps. However, when the multi-use facility is built and the existing leisure center is removed the current location of the War Memorial Shrine will no longer exist, and at this stage it will need to be relocated. The suggestion of re-housing the Book of Remembrance may be something that the Birkenhead RSA would like to consider in due course.

3.5 Car parking *Tūnga waka*

3.5.1 Project details

At present both sides of the park accommodate car parking for park use. There is limited flat open space that is not already dedicated to sporting use, so we proposed that car parking could be moved to the edges of the site. This would enable the creation of public open spaces that could be used for a variety of community activities like market days, or just for ad-hoc use by members of the public. A benefit of moving car parking to the edge of the site would be greater safety for park users, and particularly children, who would be freer to move about the site without being concerned about traffic. To achieve this proposal would take time: on the Mahara Avenue side of the park the car parking could occupy the site of what is currently the leisure centre; and on the Recreation Drive side of the park extensive site redevelopment and the removal or relocation of existing buildings would be required. Any proposal to move car parking would still factor in the need for mobility parking next to facilities such as the Birkenhead RSA, the planned multi-use sport facility and the pool.

3.5.2 Consultation response

This was one of the most controversial proposals in the draft masterplan, with 60% of support from respondents, and 40% of submitters either not supporting it, or needing further information. The comments we received from supporters of the proposal recognised the value of maximising flat open space for recreational and community use. Some submitters also suggested that traffic congestion on the park would be improved if parking was moved to the edges.

Opponents of this proposal primarily highlighted that a change in car parking locations would not address the wider problem of insufficient car parking on the site. We understand the ongoing frustrations regarding car parking, and we recognise that, at peak times when more than one sports club or community group is active on the site, parking can be difficult to find. The challenge we face is in how much of the park's flat open spaces should be used for car parking. This type of land use obviously prevents the land being used for other purposes, like informal recreation or community events. Providing enough car parking to fully accommodate all users at times of peak parking demand would require land to be reallocated for this purpose, and is out of keeping with the reasons why we have parks and reserves.

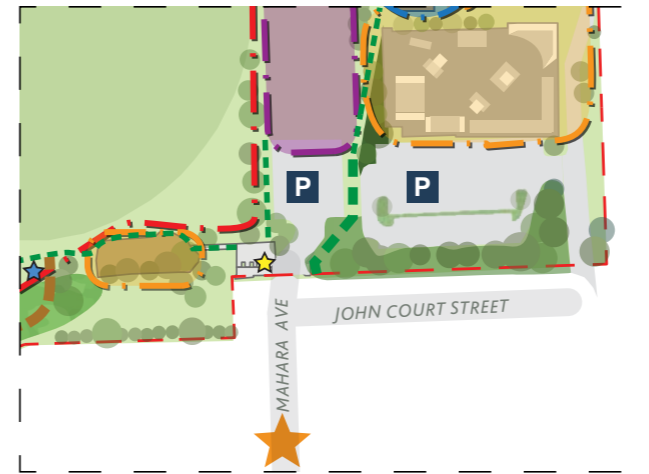
The demolished grandstand has been used well as additional parking, and that this has helped with the lack of car parking spaces on the Mahara Avenue side of the park. Going forward, we suggest that some of the grandstand site could become a public space (which could potentially be released for parking at times of peak demand), while the remainder of the grandstand site could be added to the existing parking provision and the new space for car parking that would become available when the leisure centre is removed in the future.

A final point raised by submitters was the need to improve the intersection at Recreation Drive, to make it safer for park users arriving at and leaving the site. Discussions have already been held with AT about this issue, and Kaipātiki Local Board will continue to explore the feasibility of campaigning for traffic improvements.

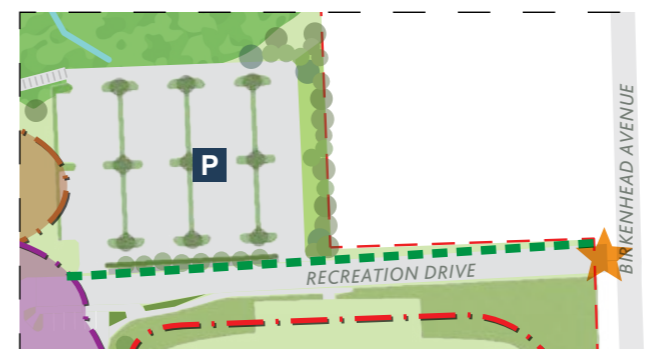
3.5.3 Timeline and next steps

Moving the car parks is a long-term proposal, and is dependent on other projects being completed first.

On the Mahara Ave side of the park the current leisure centre site would have be available to develop the car parking. This is not anticipated for at least seven to ten years.



On the Recreation Drive side of the park, car parking will eventually be relocated to the current site of the All Saints Scout Hall. This project is not anticipated to start for at least 25 years.



★ *Work with AT on potential intersection improvements and connection to town centre*

Potential improvements to the Recreation Drive and Birkenhead Avenue intersection could be achieved in the short- to medium-term, but will rely on funding to be allocated by the local board, with the improvements implemented by Auckland Transport.

We will continue to work with Auckland Transport to ensure that demand for travel to the park is factored into any plans for public transport in Birkenhead.

We will also work with existing sports clubs and community groups on the park to explore how they can continue to work cooperatively to reduce peak time pressure for parking by, for example, encouraging their members to car-pool to the park or arrive by foot or by bike. It could also be feasible to allocate some car parking spaces to car-pooling vehicles, which would help to encourage this behaviour.

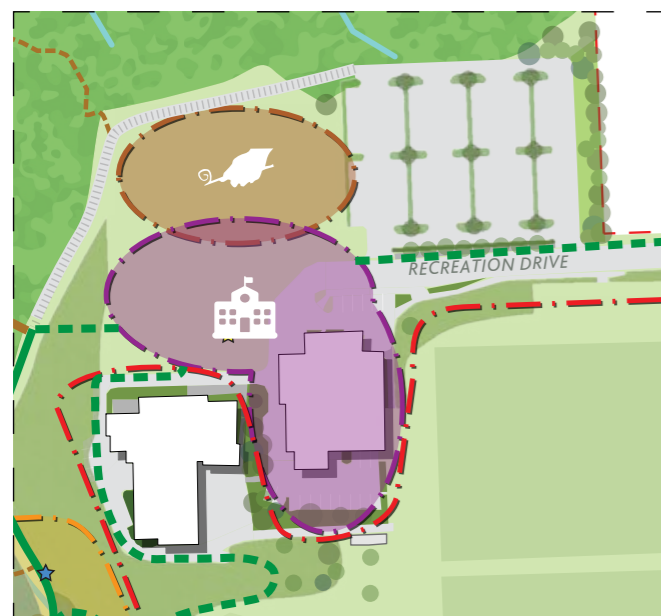
3.6 Recreation Drive redevelopment *Te whakawhanaketanga o Recreation Drive*

3.6.1 Project details

On the Recreation Drive side of the park several community groups occupy their own buildings on Auckland Council land. Our suggestion is for the number of buildings to be reduced in time, or for buildings to be moved to free up space to create a public plaza/ public open space and an education and, arts and culture precinct. To reduce the number of buildings we proposed creating shared facilities. This could involve a flexible space that can accommodate a variety of different uses, which would make them suitable for theatre groups and others. Another option for some groups, such as Birkenhead Playcentre and Birkenhead All Saints Scouts, could be a shared facility with permanent, dedicated spaces for each group. Moving buildings to cluster them together could achieve similar goals if groups continue to need dedicated spaces.

This will be enabled when car parking is moved to the edge of the site. Creating public space on this side of the park will provide capacity for community events. It would also provide groups like the Birkenhead All Saints Scouts with flat outdoor space for their activities.

The most important thing to remember about this project is that it represents the longest-term element of the masterplan, with no redevelopment proposed for at least 25 years.



3.6.2 Consultation response

This project was the only element of the draft masterplan that did not receive majority support from respondents, with 47% supporting the proposal, 44% opposing it, and 10% being unsure. Those who supported the project recognised that this new approach will provide greater flexibility and create more open green space for all park users.

We had a very strong response from some existing user groups, based on some misunderstanding of the likely timings of any changes, and the vision we had for shared facilities. We have followed up directly with these respondents to address their concerns and to reassure them that there are no plans in the next few years that will affect their buildings.

It was clear from the submissions we received that groups affected by redevelopment would expect to be involved extensively in the design of any new buildings or facilities. We agree that this will be an essential element of the redevelopment project.

3.6.3 Timeline and next steps

Given the long-term nature of this proposed redevelopment, there are currently no detailed activities planned for this element of the masterplan. The majority of the current community leases are not due to expire until the early 2030s. As that period approaches this proposal will be revisited with relevant groups.

In the short term we will explore options to work with existing user groups such as the Birkenhead Playcentre and All Saints Scouts on opportunities for outdoor education.



Example of shared public space / plaza

3.7 Pedestrian and cycle track *Te ara kaihikoi, kaipiki paihikara hoki*

3.7.1 Project details

At present the park functions as two halves, with a storm water gully dividing the space. To create better connections through the park the masterplan includes a shared pedestrian and cycling track that follows the route of the existing service road (which will remain in place, and will continue to be for service use only, not open to public vehicles). By making it easier to move through the park 'passive surveillance' (being able to see other people and be seen) will be increased. We think this will make the park feel safer, and will encourage people to use more of the available spaces.

3.7.2 Consultation response

This project received 90% support in the consultation. Respondents felt that this would encourage cycling and walking to and through the park, contributing to a cycle connection throughout the local area and providing a green and safe 'shortcut' that avoided the Highbury Bypass. Opposition to this project was minimal, with only 3% of submitters not supporting a pedestrian and cycle track. The reasons supplied included a general dislike to bikes and scooters being ridden in the park, and concerns that this would be costly and should therefore not be prioritised. A further 7% of respondents were not sure, and their comments addressed route requirements, lighting, and maintenance.

However, we noted that this was the third-highest priority for the masterplan as identified by respondents, after the multi-use sport facility and the redevelopment of aquatic facilities. We believe this signals strong support for the project.

3.7.3 Timeline and next steps

Kaipātiki Local Board has already allocated funding for this project and work on the concept design has already started. The concept design will look to address concerns about routing choices and lighting. The opening of this important connection in the park is expected to happen within the next 2-3 years.

The need to plan and budget for the required track maintenance will be noted with the relevant Auckland Council department, to ensure that this facility remains in good condition after it is built.



Existing maintenance track

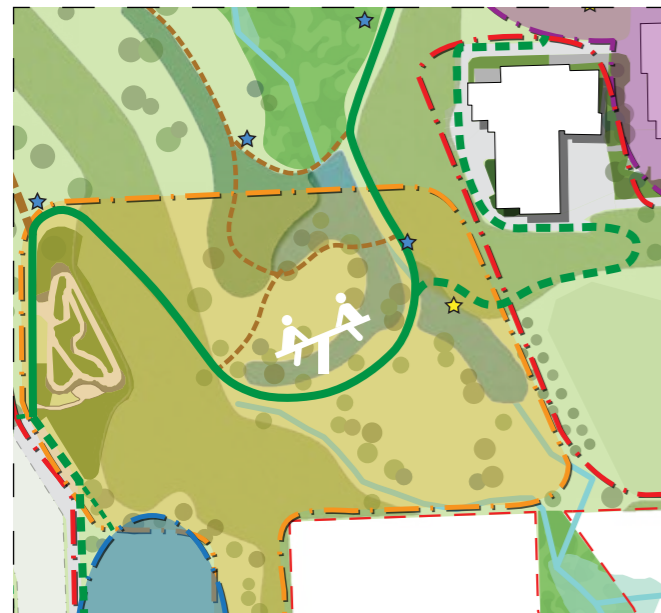
3.8 Māra hūpara *Māra hūpara*

Māra hūpara = Māori playground
Hūpara = piece of Māori play equipment

3.8.1 Project details

A 'māra hūpara' is a form of nature play that draws from Māori pre-European traditions of using different pieces of equipment – the hūpara – to teach children the skills they'd need to function as adults. In a modern context this translates to rustic wooden play equipment that provides children with opportunities to test themselves to develop their balance, bravery, and appetite for risk in a way that more conventional playgrounds cannot provide.

Through using māra hūpara children can also learn about Māori history and Māori values in a dynamic way, providing local schools and youth groups with an exciting way to take education outside the classroom. Our proposal for the park is to add māra hūpara to the storm water gully, both to activate the centre of the site and to increase the amount of play opportunities on the park. Individual hūpara are specific to each iwi (depending on what skills they prioritised with their children when māra hūpara were a key part of children's education), so mana whenua would be involved in the design process to ensure that the choices made reflect their traditions. This project would also rely upon the involvement of volunteers who currently work to protect the environmental health of the park.



3.8.2 Consultation response

This project received 64% support, with 26% of respondents unsure about māra hūpara, and 10% who did not support our proposal. Those who did support the project wrote of the great value of increasing a focus on Māori values in the park, and the benefits of increasing opportunities to play. However, those who opposed the project primarily disliked the emphasis on Māori values and a Māori cultural presence in the park, arguing that a planned marae elsewhere in Kaipātiki should be enough, or that we should plan this to be a community playground that embraces all cultures.

Kaipātiki Local Board supports opportunities highlight and celebrate Māori values in the local area. Including māra hūpara in the masterplan reinforces this commitment to strengthening ties with mana whenua. Adding māra hūpara to the park will serve as a community resource for all children to use: although it has traditional Māori origins, it is clear that this type of nature play can be enjoyed by everybody. Interpretative signage will be installed to help everybody to understand what māra hūpara is and how to engage with it.

Other comments regarding this proposal for the storm water gully suggested providing picnic tables and shelter nearby, to increase the capacity for families to use the space. We agreed that this would be an excellent idea, particularly given the proximity of the existing pump track.

3.8.3 Timeline and next steps

The concept design for the māra hūpara will start immediately after the approval of this masterplan. We expect that we can celebrate the opening of the first māra hūpara in the North within the next 2 to 3 years.

This project will be delivered in partnership with mana whenua and Healthy Waters.



Māra hūpara at Oakley Creek



3.9 Environmental protection *Te tiakitanga taiao*

3.9.1 Project details

Park users have told us how important it is that we protect the natural beauty of the bush environment. We want to address issues like kauri dieback now, and guard against general environmental degradation on an ongoing basis. The masterplan achieves this through an active management approach that includes plant and animal pest control, and management of the track network to protect kauri in the park. One track has been permanently closed, but access throughout the park will be maintained wherever possible. The masterplan recommends creating new pedestrian-only access points from Miraka Place, Vienna Place, and Willow Avenue, and a walking track around the top sports field at the Mahara Avenue end of the park, but the creation of new tracks is not a high priority at the moment and will only be progressed if it does not put kauri at risk. We'll also add more signage and footwear cleaning stations to help in the fight against kauri dieback.

3.9.2 Consultation response

A very high proportion of respondents agreed that environment protection is essential, with 88% supporting this proposal. There was a lot of support to upgrade existing tracks and reopen closed tracks. We agree with respondents that a good track network is one of the things that makes the park special, but public access needs to be balanced with ecological considerations. Some submitters made specific comments about maintenance issues, and these will be passed on as appropriate.

The cost of upgrading tracks near kauri to remove the risk of spreading kauri dieback is a significant consideration and given budget restrictions and the wide range of projects included in the masterplan we recommend that high-risk tracks should remain closed, with efforts being made to improve the general standard of tracks in the park. Some submitters mentioned that threats like kauri dieback should be addressed at a regional level, not on a park by park basis. The kauri dieback team is leading regional efforts to combat kauri dieback, but the management of individual parks is also a key factor in controlling this disease. The masterplan works to ensure that this park's kauri are suitably protected.

Council contractors regularly undertake weed control at the park and monitor pest animals. This is part of the Parks ecological contracts.

The new Natural Environment Targeted Rate funding means that additional pest control is likely to take place in the park going forward.

We agree with many submitters that the excellent efforts of volunteers who maintain the park's natural environment through animal and plant pest control should continue to be recognised. Residents who want to join existing volunteer activities should contact local groups such as Pest-Free Kaipātiki to learn more about how to become involved.

3.9.3 Timeline and next steps

Track work

The next steps in track upgrades within the park is the confirmation of the concept design with the parks volunteer group and Kaipātiki Local Board. Works will be staged over several years, with the first stage likely to start in summer 2020/21.

Ecological restoration

To protect the natural environment, animal and plant pest control at the park will need to be ongoing. Council will continue to support the volunteer group at the park to undertake animal and plant pest control. Efforts are already underway to start a more widespread animal pest control plan for the park.

The Kaipātiki Local Board will consider allocating funding towards the development of a whole of site ecological restoration plan, which sets out restoration activities to be undertaken in the next 5 to 10 years.





Kauri dieback is killing our forests



It can be spread with just a pinhead of soil.

WWW.KAURIDIEBACK.CO.NZ

TĀNGATA WHENUA | MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES | DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION | NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL | AURDLAND COUNCIL | WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL | BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL



1 Clean ALL soil off your footwear and other gear EVERY TIME you ENTER or LEAVE a forest.



2 Use disinfectant only after you have removed all soil.



Stay on track and off kauri roots.

3.10 BMX jump removal *Te tangohanga o te ara BMX*

3.10.1 Project details

The draft masterplan proposed removing the informal BMX jumps that have been built behind the sports fields on Mahara Ave and into the ecologically significant area of bush. These jumps are unsafe and encourage off-track use of the park that is inconsistent with the overall aim of protecting the bush, and particularly protecting kauri.



Indicative location of existing BMX jumps

3.10.2 Consultation response

This proposal was broadly supported by respondents, with 73% agreeing that the BMX jumps should be removed. Those who were unsure or did not support the proposed jump removal argued that the jumps don't occupy much space and provided a challenging environment for experienced riders who are too advanced for the concrete pump track on the park. Some respondents broadened the conversation by asking for mountain bike tracks to also be included on the park.

Broader philosophical issues about park use were also raised in the comments received from submitters who wanted the jumps to stay. Some respondents wrote about the long history

of children building and enjoying the jumps as part of the kind of unstructured play that is regarded as quintessentially 'Kiwi'. Others challenged the idea that park users should be expected to stick to the tracks instead of being free to enjoy everything the park can offer.

Given the threat of kauri dieback and the terrible impact it could have on the park's kauri, the masterplan prioritises environmental protection ahead of individual park users' freedom to roam off-track. However, we acknowledge the point made about the value of unstructured play. To address this we're creating a new unstructured bush play area on the park. This could be in an area of bush at the south-west corner of the upper sports field at the Mahara Avenue end of the park, to the left of the existing children's playground. When school engagement sessions were held as part of the consultation period the children highlighted their interest in hut-building, and to support this materials could be made available in this designated bush play space. This would increase the amount of play opportunities on the park, complementing the playground, the skate park, the pump track, and the planned māra hūpara.

Kaipātiki Local Board appreciates the popularity of BMX riding and mountain biking. However, this park is not the best site for those activities, and instead the local board will seek to develop suitable spaces at other parks and reserves in the area in the future. In the meantime, North Shore-based BMX riders are provided for by the North Harbour BMX Club's dedicated facilities on Hooton Reserve in Albany. Sanders Reserve in Paremoremo has an extensive network of mountain bike tracks and trails, and Woodhill Mountain Bike Park in Woodhill provides for many levels of mountain biking.

3.10.3 Timeline and next steps

The BMX jumps and debris in the surrounding area will be removed within the next year.

Opportunities for hut building and bush play will be explored on a trial basis by the relevant teams at Auckland Council. Permanent provision for this type of play at the park will be made, should the trials be a success.



Existing BMX jumps and associated structures



Example of nature play / hut building

3.11 History and heritage *Hītori me ngā taonga tuku iho*

3.11.1 Project details

Birkenhead War Memorial Park has a rich heritage that is remembered and celebrated today by Birkenhead Farrington House Museum, Birkenhead RSA, and the historic cemeteries in the park. The masterplan includes adding signage to teach people about the park's history. It also includes a heritage trail from the park to the cemeteries.

Signage will also be used to celebrate local Māori history, and the planned heritage trail will include mana whenua narratives. These elements will be developed in partnership with mana whenua, who will determine what stories are told and where.

3.11.2 Consultation response

This increased focus on the park's history and heritage was supported by 82% of respondents during the consultation period. People understood that the park's historical origins made it important to increase the overall focus on heritage, and that capturing and preserving historical information is important for future generations. Only 7% of respondents did not support this proposal, and their main concern was the cost involved.

Specific suggestions from respondents included focusing the heritage trail through the park, and including the histories of the sports clubs that are based on the park. Some of these clubs have a long tradition of activity on the site, as discussed in Section 1 of this masterplan, and we agree that this should be included as part of heritage signage. People also suggested that it would be appropriate to provide online information as well as physical signage, to better reflect the way that people often access information now.

One suggestion was that any story-telling element of park signage should be developed in conjunction with the Birkenhead Neighbourhood Planning group, which has already conducted research and other work in this area. Of course, a key partner in any history and heritage work would be the Birkenhead Heritage Society.

3.11.3 Timeline and next steps

The interpretative signage and memorial trail will be developed and installed in the next three years. Signage will be developed in collaboration with mana whenua, the Birkenhead Heritage Society, the Birkenhead RSA, and other clubs and organisations based in the park.

Options for interactive storytelling will be explored as part of the development of the signage.



Pompallier Park Cemetery



Birkenhead Farrington House Museum



Auckland Council

Community Facilities (AMIS)

Community Facilities (AMIS)

Auckland Council

- Legend
- Park Extent
 - Tap
 - Rubbish Bin
 - Pole
 - Seat
 - Gate
 - Electric Supply
 - Bollard
 - Park Table (5000)
 - Park Sign
 - Fence
 - Park Building
 - Boardwalk

0 30 60 90
Meters
Scale @ A1
= 1:1,415
Date Printed:
20/02/2018

Auckland Council
Te Kaitiaki o Te Whiriwhiri Māori

Memorial Park (11054-L100)

7 AHIKA
The Living Project

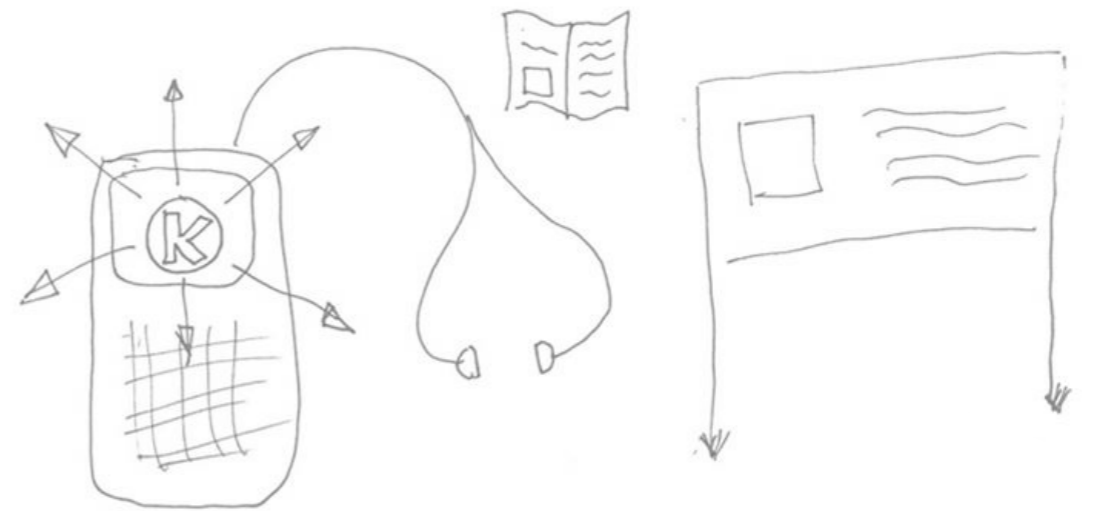
Outcome:
The AhiKa project is a living project that aims to create a vibrant and sustainable community in the heart of the city.

6 HAKI
Community Project

Outcome:
The Haki project is a community project that aims to improve the quality of life for the residents of the area.

BI

Map/Road Reserve
Park Extent



SECTION 4: ENGAGEMENT
WĀHANGA 4: MAHI TŪHONOHOONO

4.1 Development of the masterplan

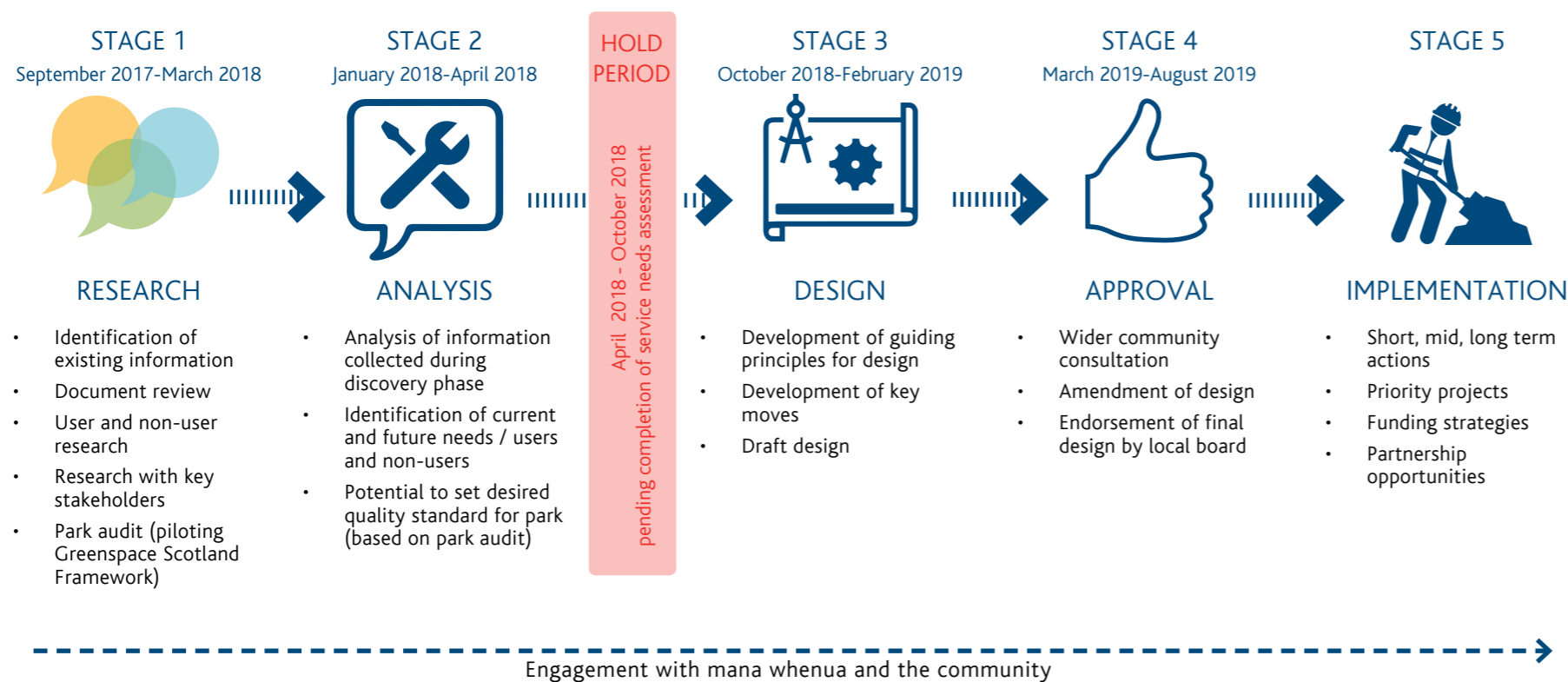
Te whanake i te mahere matua

As already presented in this masterplan, extensive partnering with mana whenua and consultation with current park users and key stakeholders has been undertaken to ensure that our recommendations for the park fulfils the community's vision and its future needs.

We also conducted an assessment of the needs for parks, pools and recreation in the local board area to help inform the masterplan based on current and potential future needs of the community, and audited the quality of the park to determine what we need to work on to create a high-quality park.



Masterplanning process



"We see huge potential for a combined sports facility covering cricket, rugby league, calliope and the gun club..."

"Its our home"

"Peaceful bush setting"

"We don't have an official street address, so can be tricky to give people directions or get mail"

"Distinct lack of parking. On weekends, the traffic is backed up out on Birkenhead Avenue, and it is hard to actually move in Recreation Drive and the carpark"

"Birkenhead War Memorial Park is a great community asset. My family and I enjoy using its facilities regularly"

"We do make our facilities available for meetings or training courses in the evenings and weekends"

"It is imperative to retain these areas for the future well being of a much greater population on the North Shore"

"The facilities are starting to get a bit old and worn out"

"I think that not enough people know about it, and its not a place people would go to often"

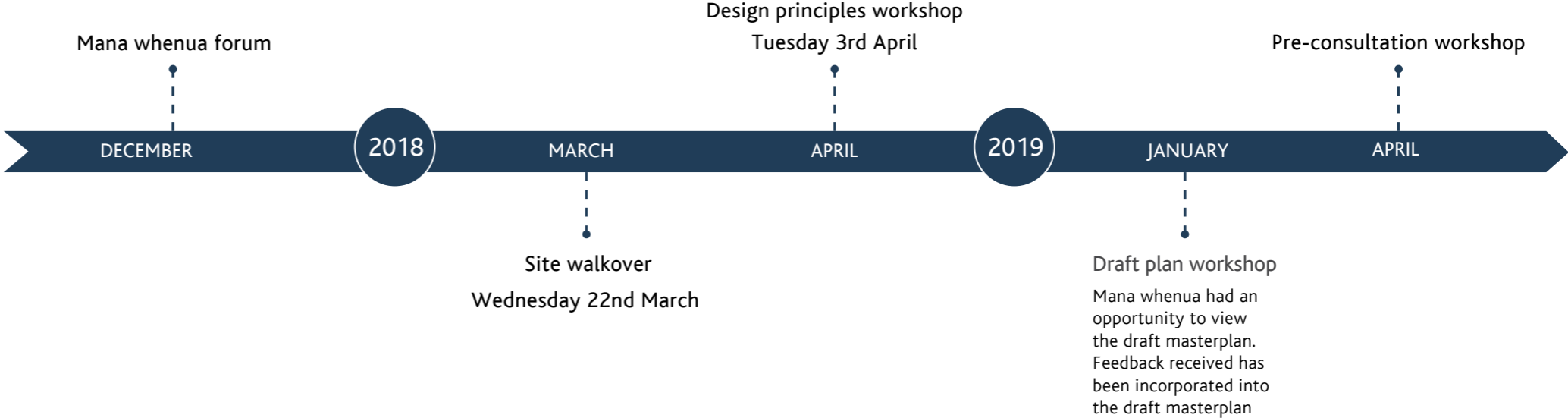
4.2 Mana whenua partnership *Te tūhononga ā-mana whenua*

We worked closely with mana whenua to shape this masterplan. The following iwi were involved:

- Te Kawerau a Maki
- Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki
- Te Ākitai Waiohua
- Ngātiwai
- Ngaati Whanaunga

Initial feedback was gathered during a site walkover. A hui was also held to establish how the masterplan design could incorporate Te Aranga Principles for design, and to identify locations where these values could come to life in the park.

Engagement timeline



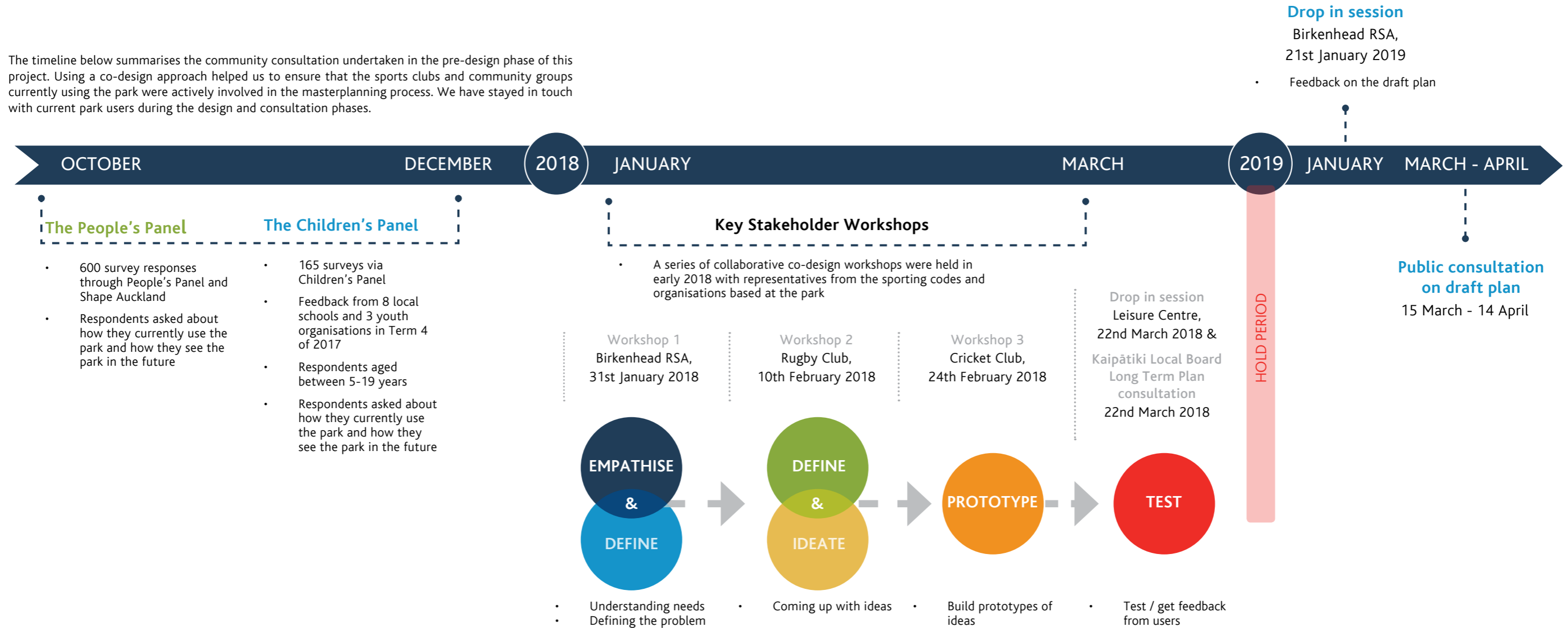
Site walkover



Marked up map from design principles workshop

4.3 Community insights *He māramatanga ā-hapori*

The timeline below summarises the community consultation undertaken in the pre-design phase of this project. Using a co-design approach helped us to ensure that the sports clubs and community groups currently using the park were actively involved in the masterplanning process. We have stayed in touch with current park users during the design and consultation phases.



Workshop 1 - 31st January 2018

Workshop 2 - 10th February 2018

Workshop 3 - 24th February 2018

Collecting feedback on the prototype design at Workshop 4 - 22nd March 2018

4.4 Key feedback themes from stakeholder workshops

Kaupapa i ngā whakahokinga kōrero matua mai i ngā papamahi ā-iwi whai pānga



CONNECTIVITY

- Improve physical connections across the park by provision of tracks and walkways
- Create a family destination within the under-utilised gully. Suggestions included: boardwalks, natural playground, hut making area, picnic area, flying fox, stormwater treatment, community gardens, miniature railway, public toilets etc...
- Connect to the natural environment
- Connect to other park users and the community via shared facilities (multi-use complex) and hosting local events
- Possible shared arts and culture space/facility
- Celebrate the history of the site through heritage trail
- Connect the site to the wider environment, including Highbury, schools and the public transport network



ENVIRONMENT

- Care for the environment and protect the bush
- Stormwater treatment and weed/pest control
- Provide access to natural environment
- Nature/native bush is peaceful, provides a chance to get away from it all
- Utilise working bees and involve local businesses and schools
- Protect kauri trees



CELEBRATE HERITAGE

- Memorial / heritage walk or trail, may include sculpture
- Celebrate War History by incorporation into design
- Investigate educational opportunities



COMMUNITY

- Sense of belonging/home
- Desire for a diversity of cultures to be represented
- Create a sense of unity between clubs/park users
- Provide an events space for music/markets/movies etc
- Inter-generational space
- Accessible spaces for all ages and abilities
- A place for locals, tourists and people from wider community
- Provide for arts/culture, sports and informal recreation activities
- Create a safe and fun environment for the whole family to enjoy
- Provide areas for passive recreation



AWARENESS

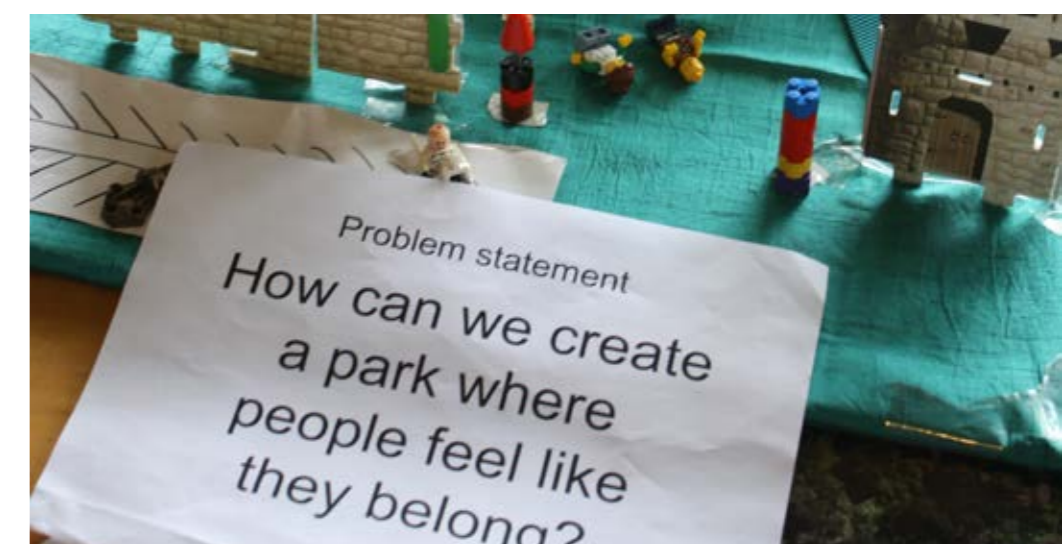
- Raise community awareness of the site and its facilities through improved signage, publicity and social media etc
- Make it easier to navigate around the site by improving signage and wayfinding information



Model created at Workshop 3 - 24th February 2018



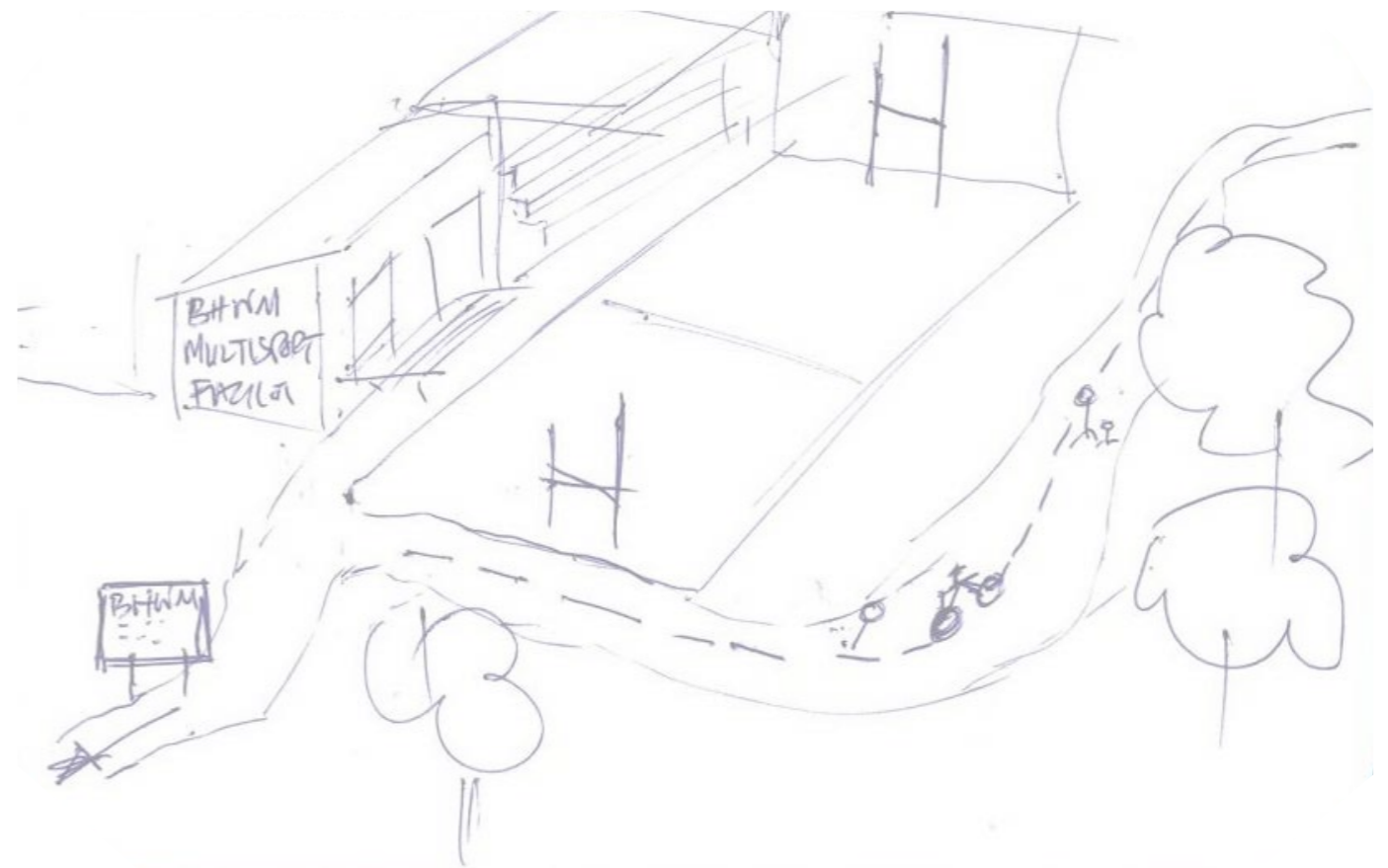
Workshop 3 - 24th February 2018



Model created at Workshop 3 - 24th February 2018



Existing bush at the park



APPENDICES NGĀ ĀPITI HANGA

A.1 Statutory context *Horopaki ā-ture*

When designing the future use of land at the park it is important to consider the implications of broader plans and controls that may influence what can be achieved. These include the Auckland Unitary Plan, and various Auckland-wide overlays and designations.

4.2.1 Auckland Unitary Plan

Under the Auckland Unitary Plan ('AUP') the park is zoned 'Public Open Space'. It is split into two subtypes: Conservation; and Sport and Active Recreation.

Conservation zoning acknowledges the landscape, cultural, and historic heritage values of the site. This zoning has the following objectives:

Conservation Zone Objectives:

1. Public open spaces with natural, ecological, landscape, and heritage values are protected and enhanced and available to the public to use and enjoy.
2. Recreational activities and associated buildings and structures complement and protect the values and qualities of the public open space.

The draft masterplan is consistent with this zoning because it seeks to strengthen ties with the park's history through signage and a heritage trail. By consolidating the existing community buildings into a smaller number of multi-use facilities the masterplan provides more access to public open space for all park users to enjoy.

Sport and Active Recreation zoning has the following objectives:

Sport and Active Recreation Zone Objectives:

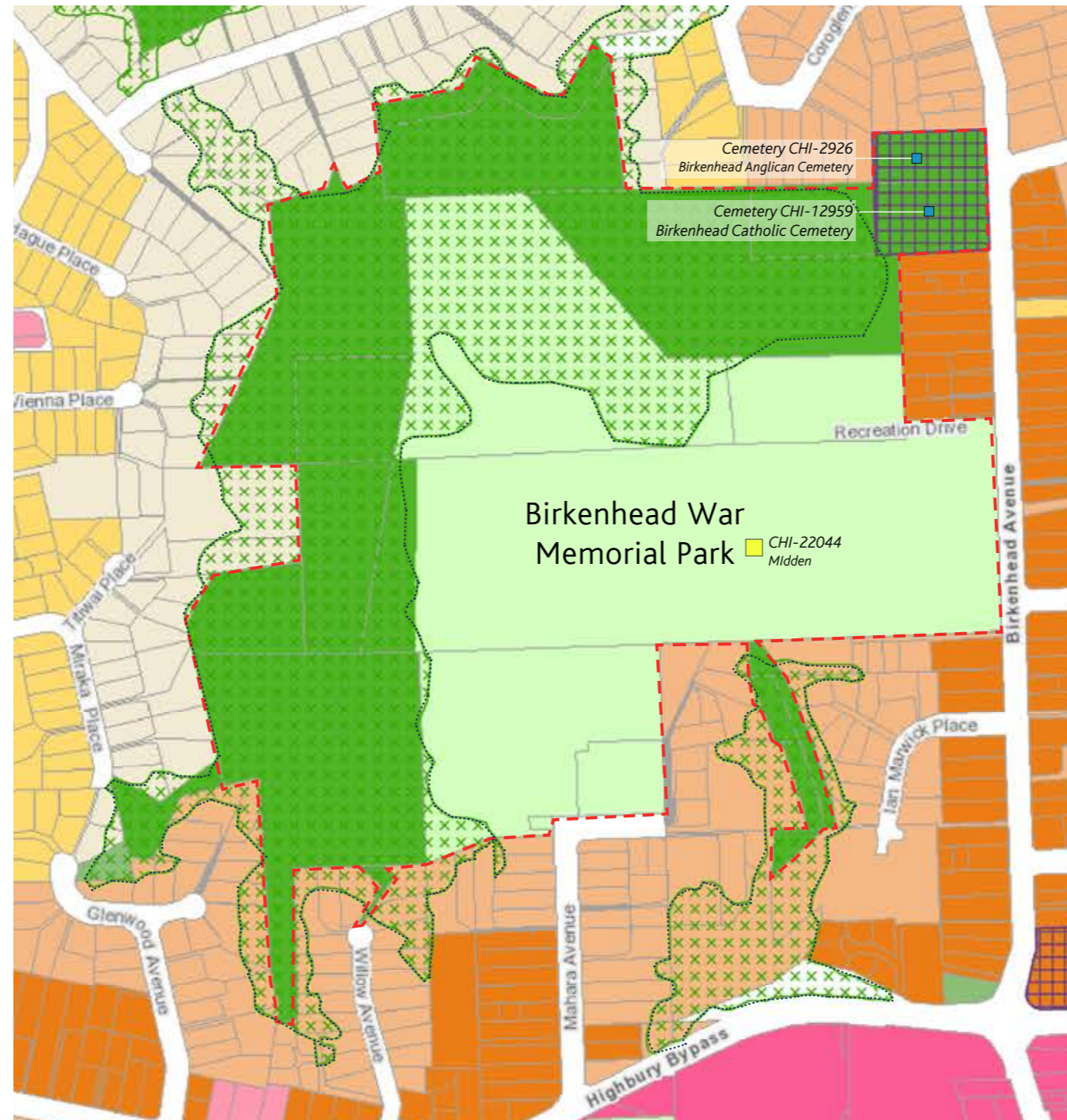
1. Indoor and outdoor sport and active recreation opportunities are provided through a network of quality public open spaces that meet the community's needs.
2. The use of public open space for sport and active recreation is maximised.

The masterplan provides the community with increased space for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation opportunities and makes the best possible use of the park. Adding new features like māra hūpara provides additional space for recreation.

4.2.2 Overlays and designations

Most of the conservation land within the park is covered by a Significant Ecological Area ('SEA') overlay, which signals the importance of protecting this natural environment. Other designations and controls that affect the park are:

- Airspace Restriction Designation
- Stormwater management area control
- Macroinvertebrate Community Index



Auckland Unitary Plan - Operative in part - extracted from Auckland Council GIS

4.2.3 Cultural Heritage

The Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) identifies two recorded Historic Structures within the park boundary. These are Birkenhead Anglican Cemetery and Birkenhead Catholic Cemetery.

One Archaeological Site has recently been recorded at the park: a shell midden adjacent to the service road.

Legend

ZONING

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

- Conservation
- Sport and Active Recreation

RESIDENTIAL

- Single House
- Mixed Housing Suburban
- Mixed Housing Urban
- Terrace Housing and Apartment Buildings

BUSINESS

- Neighbourhood Centre
- Town Centre

OVERLAYS

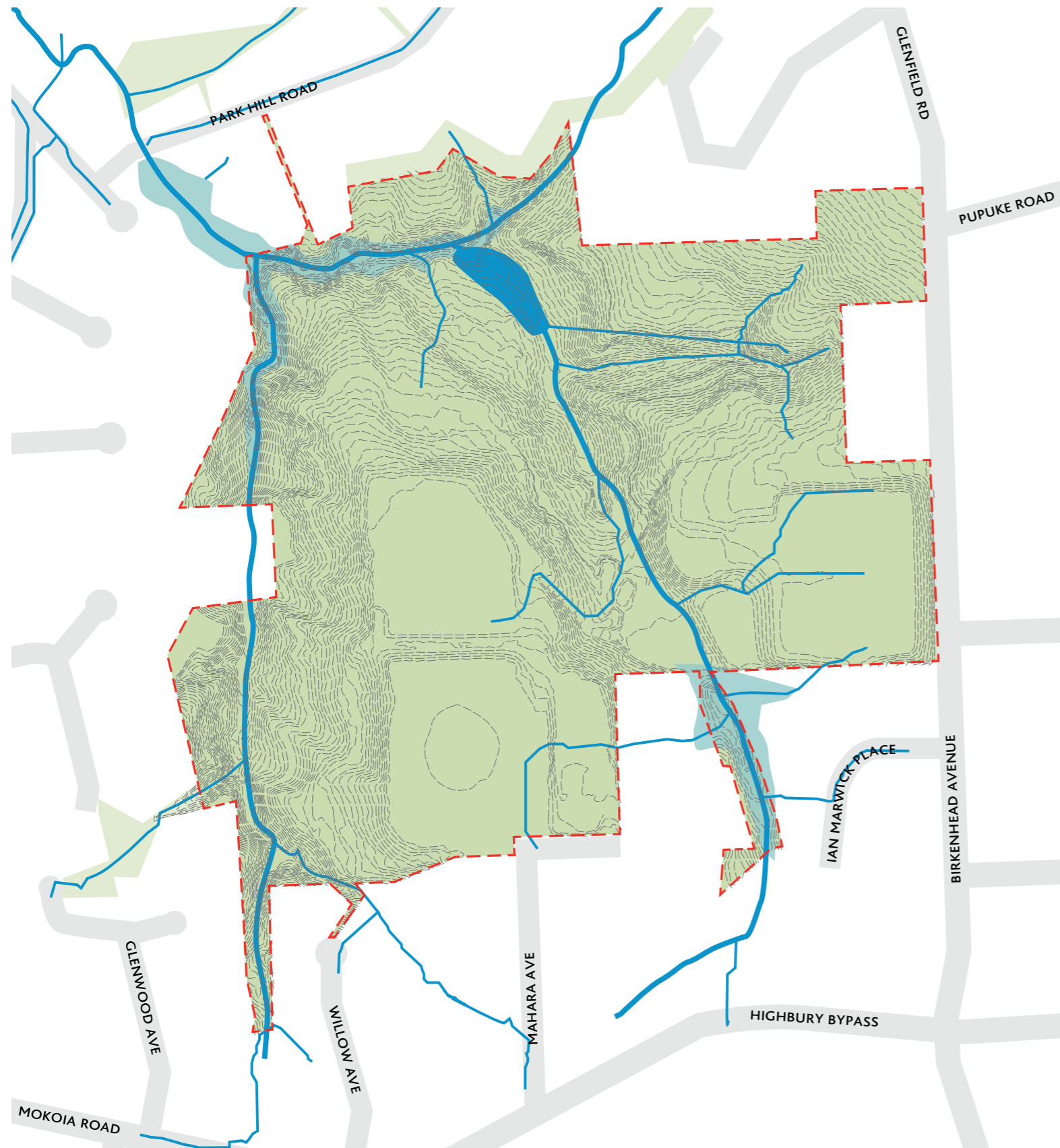
- Significant Ecological Area- Terrestrial
- Historical Heritage Overlay Extent of Place

CULTURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

- Historic Structure
- Archaeological Site
- Park Boundary



A.2 Hydrology and topography *Mātai arowai me te takoto whenua*



Topography describes the physical shape of the land, and hydrology describes the water systems in the park. There are two main types of topography in the park:

- Large, flat areas – used for playing fields and recreational activities
- Steep valley systems – covered in native bush and running from north to south through the park.

Several small tributaries feed into the streams at the bottom of the valleys. Within the main streams there are slow-flowing pools that provide an important food source for fish, eels, and birds, as well as other creatures that live in the water. The park also contains three of the headwater tributaries for Eskdale Stream, which flows through much of Kaipātiki.



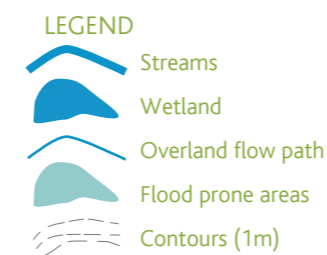
Stream within the bush



Wetland planting in the valley below rugby training field



Flat sections of the site utilised as sports fields



A.3 Vegetation *Otaota*



The park contains three main types of vegetation: bush areas; open lawn (typically used for sports fields); and amenity planting – vegetation added to increase the attractiveness of the park.

The high-quality native bush includes several mature kauri trees that are 200 – 400 years old. In the western valley there has been virtually no development, enabling this part of the park to flourish relatively untouched. The eastern valley includes a podocarp forest with a complete canopy and clear undergrowth. There are also several pine trees clustered around the historic cemeteries.

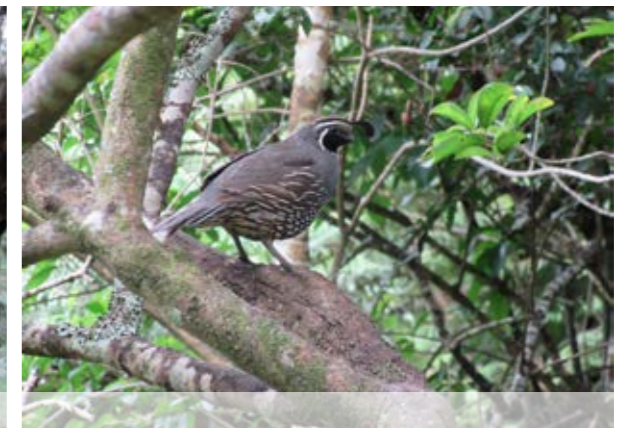
The park currently contains several areas severely affected by weeds. This is being addressed through biocontrol methods, with the following activities taking place:

- (A.) Chinese privet lacebug released to combat Chinese privet
- (B.) Gall wasps released to treat 600m² of giant reed by attacking the plant's stem to prevent it from growing.

A volunteer group has also been active in the park in the past two years and has undertaken extensive weed control and planting, as well as mice, rat and possum control. An ecological restoration plan has been written this year and is to be implemented by the volunteers with the assistance of Pest Free Kaipātiki and Kaipātiki Local Board.



High quality native bush



Section of overgrown bush track



The slopes of the gully are infested with Elephant grass

LEGEND

- Native bush
- Grass
- Amenity/specimen trees

- SEA (from Auckland Unitary Plan)
- Weed species
- Riparian vegetation



A.4 Access and circulation *Āhei ki te uru me te haereere*



By considering access and circulation as part of the masterplanning process we can clarify how people typically enter the park, and where they are likely to travel when they've arrived.

The park has two main clusters of development – one accessed off Recreation Drive, and the other accessed off Mahara Avenue – and this clustering of facilities continues in the masterplan. There is an unsealed service road that links the two areas, and this remains in the masterplan. There is no intention to provide a public road link through the park.

The masterplan supports good walking and cycling connections by developing a shared pedestrian and cycle path on the service road through the stormwater gully, linking the two sides of the park. Moving car parking to the edges of the park also increases opportunities for people to walk and cycle in the park in a safer environment.

The pedestrian-only access route from Park Hill Road is shown on this map. Three additional pedestrian-only access points are proposed from Miraka Place, Vienna Place and Willow Avenue. A previous access point from the cemeteries on Birkenhead Road has been closed to protect the park's kauri.

Beyond the park's boundaries there are greenway routes proposed in the Kaipātiki Connections Network Plan, which are shown on this map. This Network Plan is intended to provide improved long-term walking, cycling, and ecological connections in the wider area, although this will be contingent on future funding.



Mahara Ave entrance



Recreation Drive carpark



Service road connecting the two parts of the site



Bush track

LEGEND

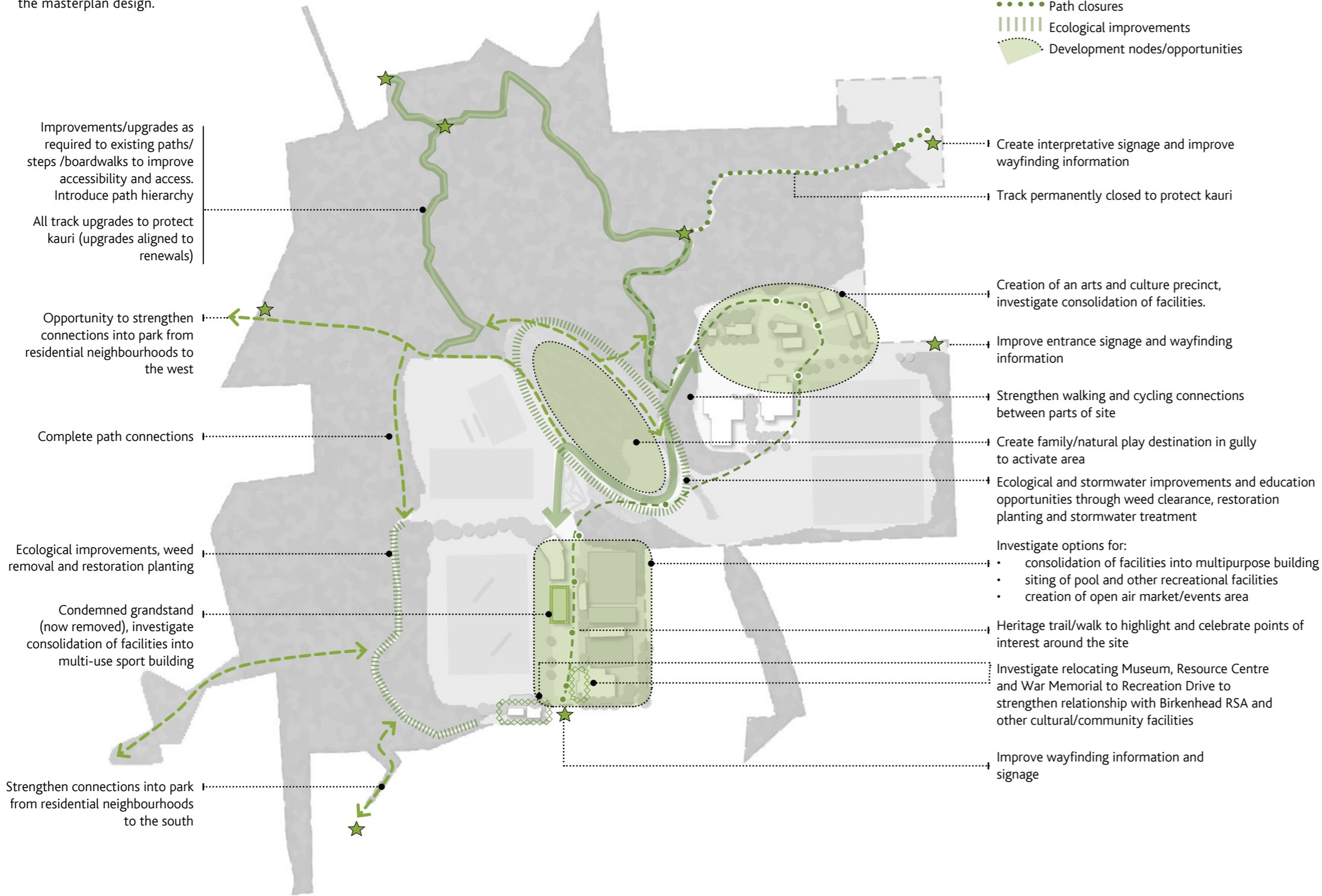
- Existing pedestrian paths
- Existing vehicle circulation
- Existing service road (unsealed)
- P Existing carparking
- Bus routes and stops
- — — — ACN connector route (existing/proposed)
- — — — Proposed Kaipātiki greenway route (from the Kaipātiki Connections Network Plan - Updated August 2016)
- ▲ Primary park entrances
- ▲● Secondary park entrances

A.5 Site opportunities *Ngā āheinga ā-wāhi*

This page summarises the opportunities for design that were initially identified for the park. The opportunities identified are now reflected in the masterplan design.

LEGEND

- ★ Signage
- Proposed path connections
- ▬ Improved / upgraded paths
- Path closures
- ▨ Ecological improvements
- ▭ Development nodes/opportunities



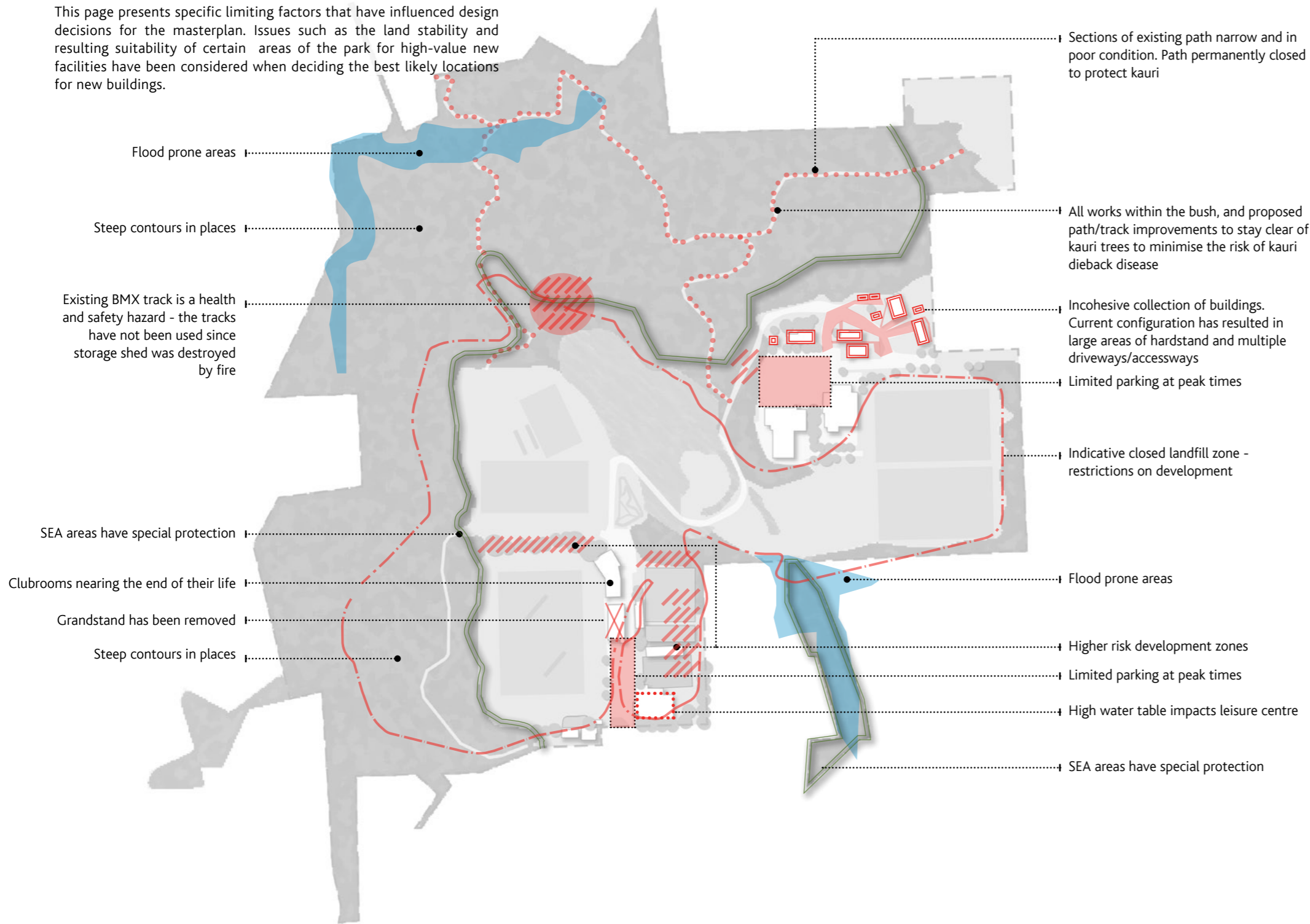
Existing site attributes



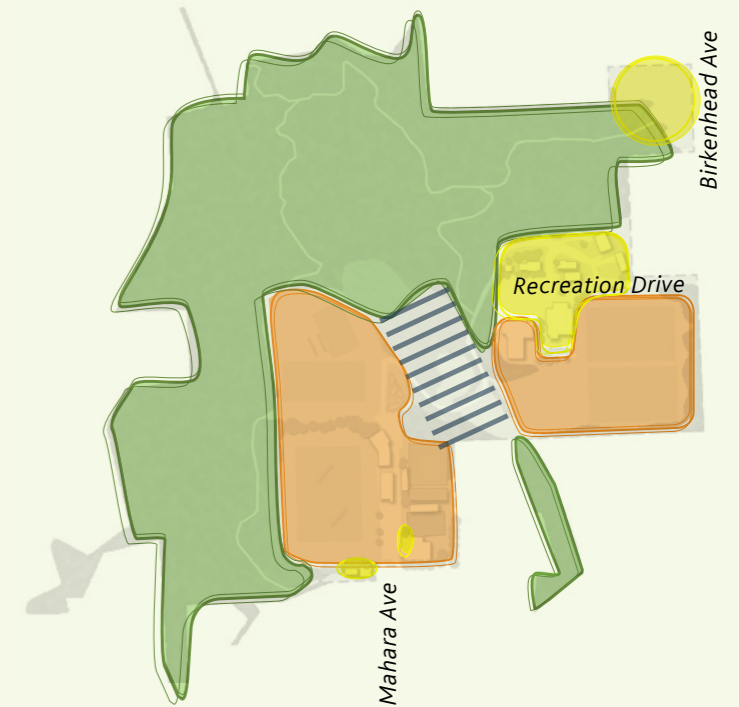
A.6 Site constraints and known issues

Ngā kōpiringa me ngā take e mōhiotia ana

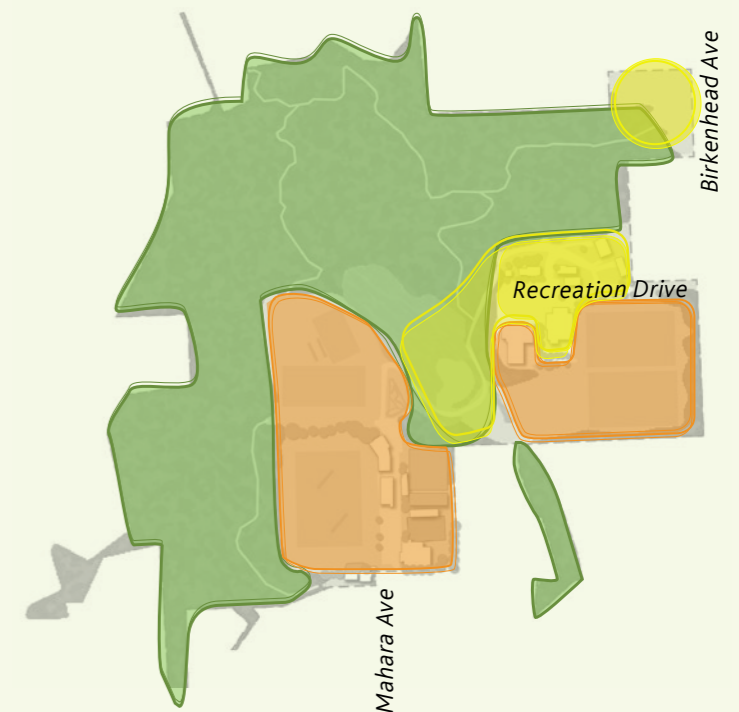
This page presents specific limiting factors that have influenced design decisions for the masterplan. Issues such as the land stability and resulting suitability of certain areas of the park for high-value new facilities have been considered when deciding the best likely locations for new buildings.



Existing land uses



Proposed land uses



LEGEND

- NATURE/ECOLOGY PRECINCT
- SPORTS & ACTIVE RECREATION PRECINCT
- COMMUNITY, ARTS & CULTURE PRECINCT
- UNDER-UTILISED LAND

A.7 Park audit *Te arotake ā-papa rēhia*

In order to assess whether the park is performing well we modified a process developed by Greenspace Scotland to carry out a park quality audit. This enabled us to consider whether the park meets the seven criteria for high quality parks.

The factors we looked at were:

- Places that are accessible and well connected
- Safe and welcoming places
- Places where biodiversity and ecosystem services are protected
- Places to be active and improve health and well being
- Places that foster community ownership and a sense of belonging

We added in two additional factors:

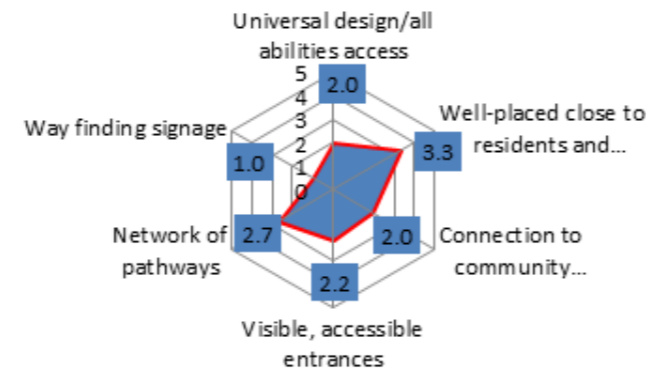
- Places where historic and culture heritage is treasured
- Places that are sustainable

The park scored well in the areas of biodiversity and contributing to an active and healthy lifestyle, as well as fostering community ownership and a sense of belonging.

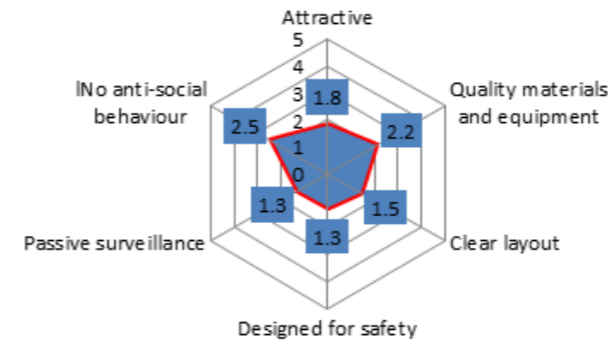
Areas that have been identified as needing improvement are: accessibility; connectedness; safe and welcoming places; protecting and celebrating cultural heritage; and sustainability.

The key findings of the park quality audit are summarised in this following diagrams.

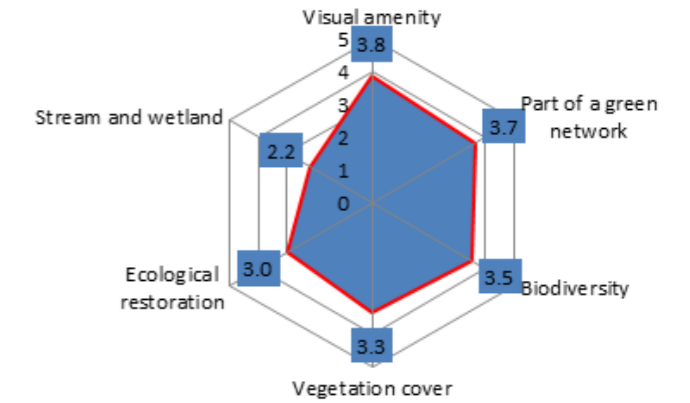
1. Access and connectedness



2. Safe and welcoming places



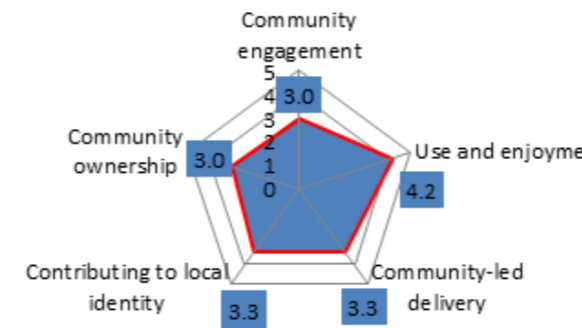
3. Biodiversity and ecosystems



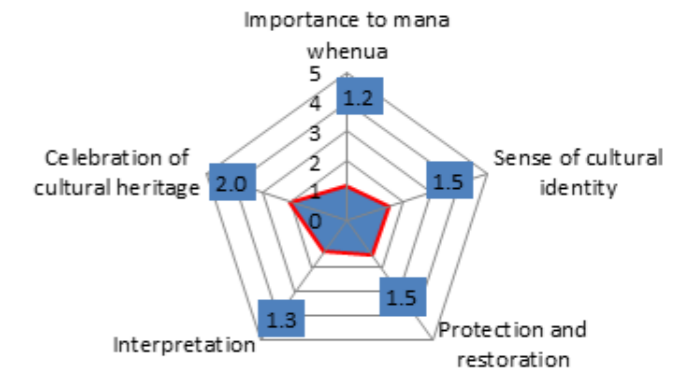
4. Active lifestyle- supports health and wellbeing



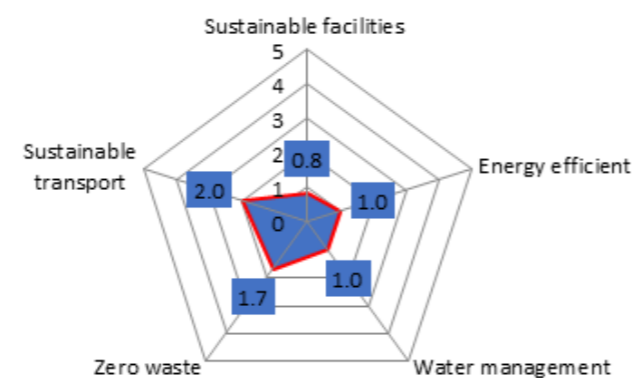
5. Community ownership and support



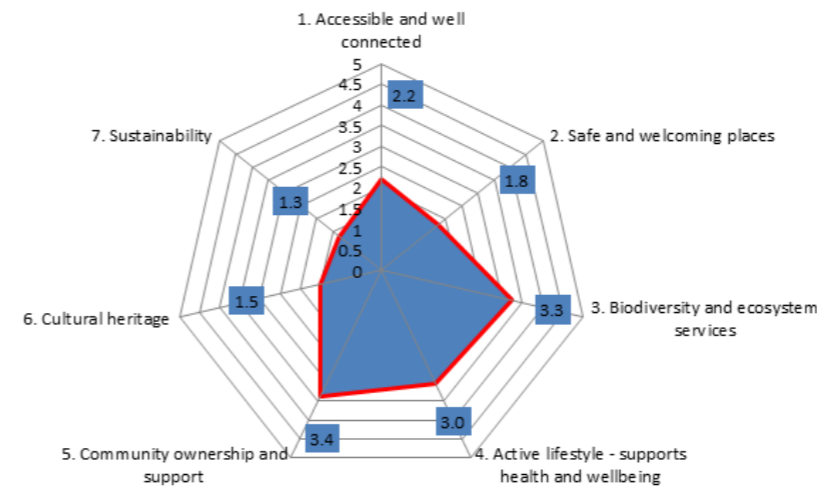
6. Cultural heritage



7. Sustainability



Audit overall result - parks staff



A.8 Service needs assessment *Aromatawai hiahia whakarato*

In the service needs assessment, we evaluated the park services, active recreation, and pool and leisure facilities provided at the park. We also considered the need for halls for hire, community centres, and community leases in the wider local board area.

When we looked at targets for the provision of community and park facilities we used various Auckland Council guiding documents: the Community Facilities Network Plan; the Open Space Provision Policy; and the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan.

We also took into account the potential population growth in the area.

The key findings of the service needs assessment are summarised below:



Park Services Including sports field provision

- Tracks – some gap in provision; upgrade of the service road in the park to cater for walking and cycling identified as a priority item in the Kaipātiki Connections Network Plan 2016
- Toilets and changing rooms at Mahara Ave – some toilets and changing rooms were housed in the (now removed) grandstand; some provision in the Cricket Club buildings – need to replace facilities lost by removal of the grandstand
- Car parking – shortage of parking spaces in the park at peak times
- Sports field provision – some oversupply of hours, mostly for rugby league
- Play – improve play experience at the park, include play for different age groups and nature play as per the Kaipātiki Strategic Play and SunSmart Provision Assessment
- Signage – there is a current lack of signage in the park (entrance, directional and interpretative)
- Lack of socialising spaces in the park



Pool and leisure

- Pool provision in the local board area is appropriate for the current and likely future needs of the population (based on 2013 census data).
- The two pools in the local board area are in good locations to ensure easy access for most of the population.



Active Recreation

- There is a shortage of indoor courts in the Kaipātiki Local Board area. 2-3 courts can be accommodated in the multi-use sport facility at Mahara Avenue
- The athletics facilities at the park should be upgraded
- The development of mountain bike facilities at the site was considered, but is deemed not to be appropriate because of the risk of introducing kauri dieback
- Gymnastics – a sub-regional facility already exists in Kaipātiki, any further sub-regional or regional facilities should be located further north; therefore, this is not recommended for the park.

No gaps in provision were identified for hire facilities, community centres and Community Leases.



Parks audit site walkover with local board members and council staff

