

Alison Park Concept Plan

Design aspirations

The following aspirations are based on community and mana whenua feedback and the existing features of Alison Park. These have guided the design of the Alison Park Concept Plan.



1) Gateway:

- Establish Alison Park as a gateway into Waiheke and Oneroa
- Improve the visibility of Alison Park for visitors as they arrive from Matiatia Wharf
- Create a more welcoming arrival point at the main entrance into Alison Park to entice people through.



2) Natural Environment:

- Extend areas of native and productive planting in appropriate locations
- Formulate a consistent planting palette that is suitable for the Waiheke climate, that will enhance local biodiversity and provide for the community
- Plant or extend planting of riparian or ephemeral areas with appropriate plant species
- Develop and implement a weed management plan to manage invasive weed species
- Promote opportunities for volunteer groups and the public to be involved in park improvements and appreciate the natural environment.



3) Identity and Story Telling:

- Create a park landscape that reflects and celebrates the local Waiheke identity (such as incorporating local materials and stories into the park design)
- Embrace the topography of Alison Park and the design opportunities it presents
- Enhance the experience of the sculpture trail.



4) Recreation:

- Provide recreational opportunities for a range of user-groups, including areas of natural play, walking and cycling, informal and organised sport, sporting events and sitting and viewing the landscape and other points of interest
- Retain the large areas of grassed open space and investigate improving drainage where feasible
- Enhance the experience of moving through and appreciating the native vegetated areas
- Ensure that the bowling green can be used as a multipurpose area for community activities as well as used as a croquet lawn by the croquet club.



5) Community:

- Develop Alison Park as a hub for the local community and visitors to the island
- Develop Alison Park so that it provides for a range of community uses over time and is responsive to the community's needs
- Utilise the existing building for community purposes
- Facilitate the strengthening of social connections within the community.



6) Connectivity and Legibility:

- Improve the physical connections into and through the park by establishing a legible hierarchy of paths
- Improve the quality of access points into Alison Park
- Install interpretive signage and way-finding features to facilitate the use of the park and to link the park to other locations on Waiheke
- Improve the visual connections into and across the site (such as views to Huruhiu Bay and Hauraki Gulf to the south east)
- Advocate for a safe pedestrian connection between Ocean View Road and Alison Park.

Alison Park Concept Plan

Overall Plan

A Main Entrance

- Create a more visible and welcoming main entrance. Refer to page 7 for more.

B The Greens

- A functional Green that enables a range of appropriate community uses. Refer to page 7 for more.

C Natural Play and Recreation

- Indicative location of an all-ages natural play area.
- New exercise equipment introduced. Potential to create an equipment circuit around the park. Locations to be determined.
- New seating and picnic tables.

D Northern Entrance

- Create a more visible entrance. Improve accessibility and safety.
- Plant boggy areas with wet-tolerant plants. Potential to incorporate a board walk at northern entry point
- Prune lower branches of trees to improve sight-lines into the park.

E Eastern Entrance

- Improve entrance via surface treatments, planting and signage. Keep existing stone bridge. Review visibility into Alison Park.
- Reduce weed species and plant with wet-tolerant native species.

Review access steps up the hill. Potential for a graded walkway if slope requirements can be met.



Key

- Primary pedestrian access
- Informal pedestrian access
- Sculptures
- Streams
- Existing vegetation
- Community building and structures

Paths Across the Park

- Widen existing sealed pedestrian path to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.
- Add a new main path along spur to connect the Green with Oneroa Village.
- Establish a series of informal paths across the park. Use surface treatment such as gravel or mown strips to differentiate from main paths.
- Establish a loop track around the perimeter of the park.
- Use small timber bridges for access over streams
- Signage within and around park to assist with way-finding. Signage also needed at the Oneroa Village centre to direct visitors to Alison Park.

Vegetation Across the Park


- Develop a plant strategy. Plant palette could include native NZ coastal plants that can tolerate wet feet in winter and dry summers, productive plants and others.
- Develop weed management strategy for the entire park and undertake on an on-going basis.
- Prune lower branches of mature trees to provide better sight lines across park.
- In conjunction with future planting, remove unhealthy/poorly located trees and shrubs. Where possible, re-use wood for features across the park such as playgrounds and seating.
- Replace grass along steep bank adjoining Ocean View Road with low height native plants to reduce maintenance costs.
- Extend native planting to the Kuaku Road road edge to reduce maintenance costs.
- Plant around existing stormwater drains with wet-tolerant native plant species.
- Extend existing tracts of bush and/or stands of trees with native planting.

Alison Park Concept Plan


Detail of the Greens and main entrance


A Main Entrance

- Develop a gateway to Alison Park. Needs to be visible from further down Ocean View Road (e.g. use features such as tall, linear Nikau).

 Potential for entrance to 'absorb' existing traffic island.


- Provide comprehensive signage, display boards, waharoa, sculpture, seating and planting to reinforce its gateway status.

 Work with Auckland Transport to address pedestrian safety issues crossing Ocean View Road.

 Remove car parking closest to main entrance to allow for entrance enhancement. Provide additional parking to the south of the community building (shown as red dash).

B The Greens

- 1 Continued use for croquet. Enable multiple use by appropriate activities where lawn surface is appropriately protected.

 Upgrade edge of the Greens to make more usable for more community based activities (i.e. re-surfacing, widen, new seating and incorporate better with vegetation and adjoining activities).

- 2 Create better connection between green and lower levels through appropriate interventions such as terracing /steps, ramps, without affecting wind breaks.

- 3 Review pohutukawa hedge around green or, replace with appropriate landscaping that would continue to provide wind shelter as well as shade and improved site lines between street and green.


- 4 Potential community gathering space and community garden/food forest. Located in close proximity to play area.

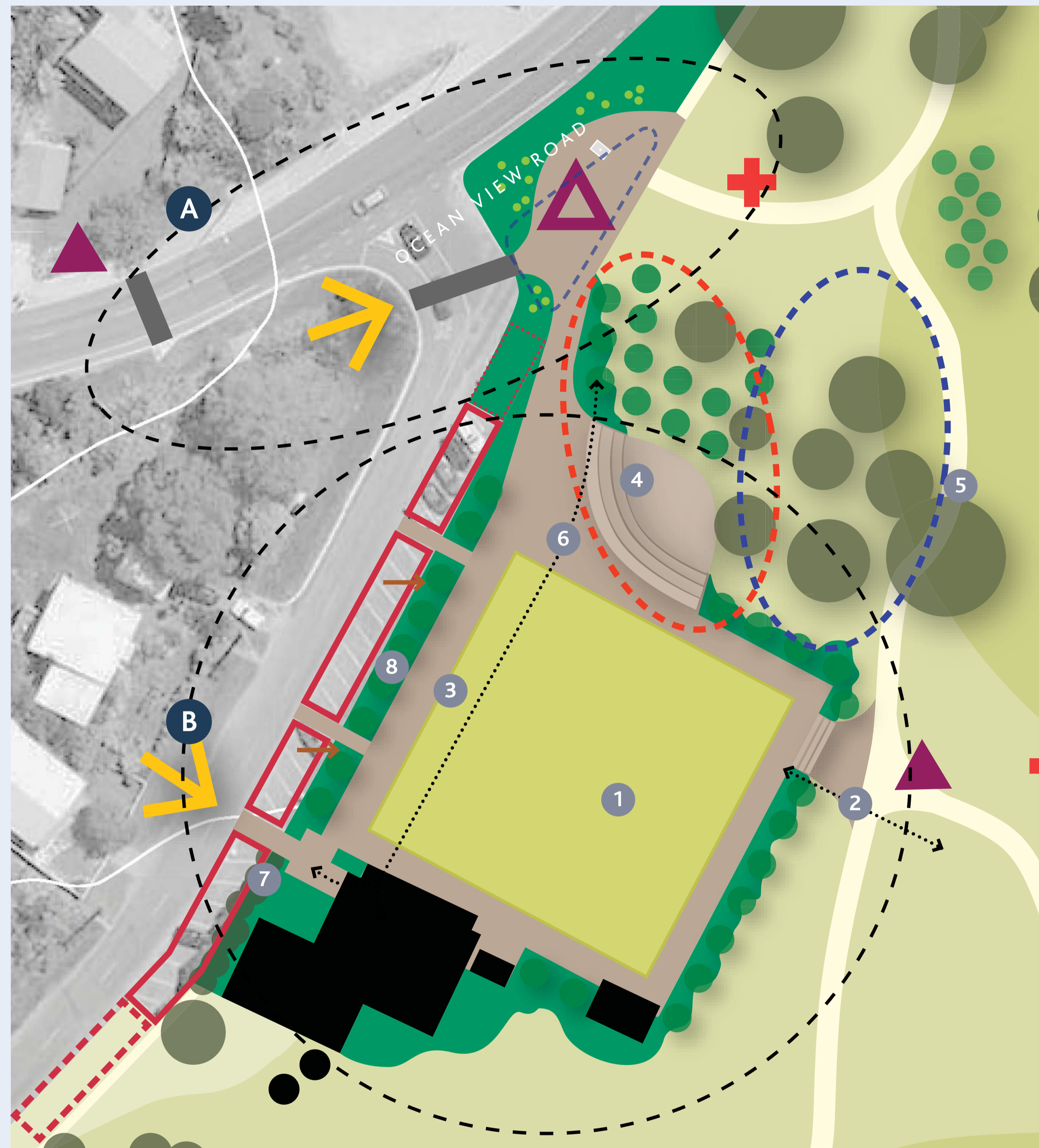
- 5 Indicative location of play area. Play elements could include logs recycled from the trees removed from site, mounding, boulders, a slide and planting.

- 6 Path and ramp connecting main and secondary entrance with community building.








- 7 Improve secondary access to better connect community building with parking area.

- 8 Existing car park to mainly remain. Remove spaces close to new entrance and expand car park further south. Could include loading bay.

 Pedestrian access points between car park and green for market days etc. Can be gated/bollard when not in use.



Key

-  Primary pedestrian access
-  Sculptures
-  Existing vegetation
-  Amenity planting and/or wind break planting
-  Signage
-  Stream
-  Community buildings and structures



What could this park look like?

Aspirational images for Alison Park



PATHS

STEPS

BRIDGES



SIGNAGE AND WAY-FINDING

The precedent images on this page demonstrate specific styles and features that have been used in other parks and could be appropriate for use in Alison Park. Not all of the images shown will necessarily be put into Alison Park but they give an idea of a potential "look and feel".



GATEWAY



LOCAL MATERIALS AND COASTAL PLANTING



SCULPTURE

RECREATION ACTIVITIES



NATURAL PLAY