

# Tāmaki Open Space Network Plan

## **SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS**

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## 2.0 CURRENT STATE ANALYSIS

### 2.4 UTILISE

*Using our parks and open spaces to create a green, resilient and prosperous city with thriving communities.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Reserves and maritime areas with a key ecological function include Wai-o-Taiki Reserve and its connection to Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve, Point England Reserve and reserves along the Omaru Creek.

Water quality is very poor. The 2014 'State of Auckland-Freshwater Report Card' for Maungakiekie-Tāmaki was only an F-grade. The water from the streams and creeks in Tāmaki flow into the Tāmaki Estuary impacting on the quality of the marine environment.

##### General observations:

- + Some reserves have clusters of mature trees which provide potential habitat and corridor functions
- + Potential to enhance connections to habitat beyond Tāmaki, for example Maungarei adjoining the study area to the west, and to Kepa Bush Reserve and Ōrākei Basin to the north-west
- + Low habitat quality due to poor water quality
- + Many segments of the stream have plant species which clog the waterways, preventing good water flow and oxygenation
- + Local community groups are working to improve the stream and creek environments by planting the edges to reduce erosion and regular rubbish clean ups.



Figure 10. Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve is a recognised significant ecological area









The open space network provides an important ecological service to the Tāmaki estuary. Wading birds that feed in the estuary require open space to roost (sleep) and breed. The estuary has lost most of its roosting habitat and bird numbers have dropped dramatically, some species are in danger of going extinct.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

##### AUCKLAND UNITARY PLAN

- Significant Ecological Areas - Marine 1
- Significant Ecological Areas - Marine 2
- Significant Ecological Areas - Land
- Streams

### 3.0 KEY MOVES

KEY MOVES	ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES	LOCAL BOARD PRIORITY	
		(MAUNGAKIEKIE-TĀMAKI)	(ŌRĀKEI)
 <p>Improve Open Space Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase open space provision in areas of poor provision.</li> <li>• Increase access to open space.</li> <li>• Increase sportsfield quality.</li> <li>• Provide for growth.</li> <li>• Increase areas of useable open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve quality of open space.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for pocket parks within future development areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve quality of open space.</li> <li>• Retain Merton Reserve.</li> </ul>
 <p>Provide for Play and Informal Recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few flat spaces.</li> <li>• Limited informal recreation infrastructure.</li> <li>• Playgrounds of a similar age, quality and design.</li> <li>• No provision of activities for youth.</li> <li>• No network of play opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of play opportunities.</li> </ul>	
 <p>Improve Safety and Surveillance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor park configuration.</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• Poor street frontage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve safety and surveillance.</li> </ul>	
 <p>Reaffirm and Revitalise Mana Whenua Identity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstating the ara (pathways/connections) between the mosaic of significant cultural sites and places (Tohu).</li> <li>• Referencing the oral traditions and histories of Mana Whenua through appropriate place names and Māori urban design responses within the built environment and open space (Whakapapa).</li> <li>• Fostering mutual understanding through the sharing of stories and interactive design outcomes that provide a focus on cultural narrative (Mahi Toi).</li> <li>• Creating a unique point of difference and sense of community by acknowledging the importance of the cultural landscape and placemaking in the regeneration of the open space network (Kotahitanga).</li> </ul>		
 <p>Improve Biodiversity and Water Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited native planting.</li> <li>• No water sensitive design in parks.</li> <li>• Implement Tāmaki Stormwater Management Plan.</li> <li>• Treat and improve stormwater.</li> <li>• Plantings that provide food and habitat for wildlife.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve ecological corridors.</li> <li>• Improve ecological quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve ecological corridors.</li> <li>• Improve ecological quality.</li> </ul>
 <p>Improve Connectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to the coast.</li> <li>• Implement greenways plan.</li> <li>• Provide a network of play opportunities.</li> <li>• Provide for jogging.</li> <li>• Poor connectivity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a network of play opportunities.</li> <li>• Improve connectivity to Maungarei (Mt Wellington)</li> </ul>	

Conservation dependent species are breeding in the network, there are opportunities to create designated bird roosting habitat.

### CIVIC SPACE PROVISION FOR PANMURE

Panmure does not have a civic space. A civic space could provide an area close to the centre of Panmure for a range of different activities such as community events, markets, informal recreation and flexible space for people to gather or relax.

The Open Space Provision Policy target for a town centre is to provide one or more small civic spaces (less than 1000m<sup>2</sup>) and a medium space (1500m<sup>2</sup> to 2000m<sup>2</sup>). These can be squares, plazas, greens and shared spaces. This is subject to land availability and funds.

### NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

The development of new neighbourhoods through the Tāmaki Regeneration Programme may provide opportunities to obtain pocket parks at no capital cost enabling doorstep play, informal recreation and amenity. These parks will need to conform to the Open Space Provision Policy.

There are two large open space provision gaps which have been identified. The first of which can be found in the north of Glen Innes, just south of West Tāmaki Road. The second is in the south-west of the study area alongside Jellicoe Road. Land acquisition for open space could be considered if suitable land was available.

### INCREASE AREAS OF USEABLE OPEN SPACES

Providing useable flat spaces and improving street frontages of parks.

The land away from the coast, which is often used as open space is mostly made up of drainage reserves. Many of these are steep and characterised by poor access, surveillance and connectivity. Parts of Tāmaki lack useable flat areas for informal recreation. Some of the land owned by the Tāmaki Regeneration Company and subject to redevelopment is next to open space which is poorly configured.

The Tāmaki regeneration project provides the opportunity for Auckland Council to exchange land with the Tāmaki Regeneration Company to improve park configuration, release landlocked parks, and provide useable flat areas and improve street frontages

Eight parks have been identified as being able to be improved by potentially exchanging land with the Tāmaki Regeneration Company to provide better street frontage and useable flat spaces.

### POINT ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT ENABLING ACT 2017

The Point England Development Enabling Act 2017 removes 11.69 hectares from the Point England Reserve and zones that area for housing development. The balance of the reserve (32.91 hectares) remains land vested in Auckland Council and subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

The new configuration of the reserve is reflected in the maps in this plan.

The area taken for housing extends across 3.1 hectares of existing sports fields. The Act amends the management plan for the reserve to require Auckland Council to replace the lost 3.1 hectares with new sports-fields elsewhere in the reserve as soon as practicable.

The Auckland Council position is that the market value of the open space land taken for housing through the Act must be reinvested in the open space network in Tāmaki. Detail of how this will happen is yet to be agreed with the government. Reinvestment should include a mixture of acquisition of further land and improvements to the quality of existing open space.

### ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE IN TĀMAKI

- + Is the need able to be satisfied by improving the level of service?
- + Does the land proposed for acquisition meet the needs of parks and open spaces acquisition and management?
- + Does land proposed for acquisition meet a specific need identified in the Tāmaki open space network plan?
- + Can the need be met by land owned by Auckland Council which is not currently being used for open space and is identified as a non-service asset, or which has been identified for other uses or disposal?

Where a decision is made to accept open space land which does not meet the open space acquisition policy, the governing body has made it conditional on the local board allocating ongoing maintenance funds from its Local Discretionary Initiative Budget or otherwise securing ongoing maintenance funding from other sources.

The new housing and sports fields will most likely (directly and indirectly) evict the shorebirds that roost and breed at Point England.



Figure 15. Alleyway with limited surveillance near Mauinaina West Reserve



Figure 16. Sloping topography at Boundary Reserve

### 3.0 KEY MOVES

## 3.5 IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY AND WATER QUALITY

Many of parks within the study area serve a stormwater function. This function will need to be expanded to provide for growth. Opportunities to layer functionality can be used to maximise synergies between water quality, ecology, education and amenity values.

The creeks and streams in Tāmaki flow into the Tāmaki River. Improvements to parks which include water sensitive design and planting can help to treat and clean stormwater before it enters the Tāmaki River.

### PROPOSED ACTIONS

Increase native planting:

- + Strengthen existing ecology and biodiversity through management of existing and new native corridors
- + Consider succession and legacy planting to ensure mature trees and habitats within parks in the future
- + Explore options to enhance bird roosting and nesting environments, including provision of dog-free areas
- + Assess viability of grazing arrangements.

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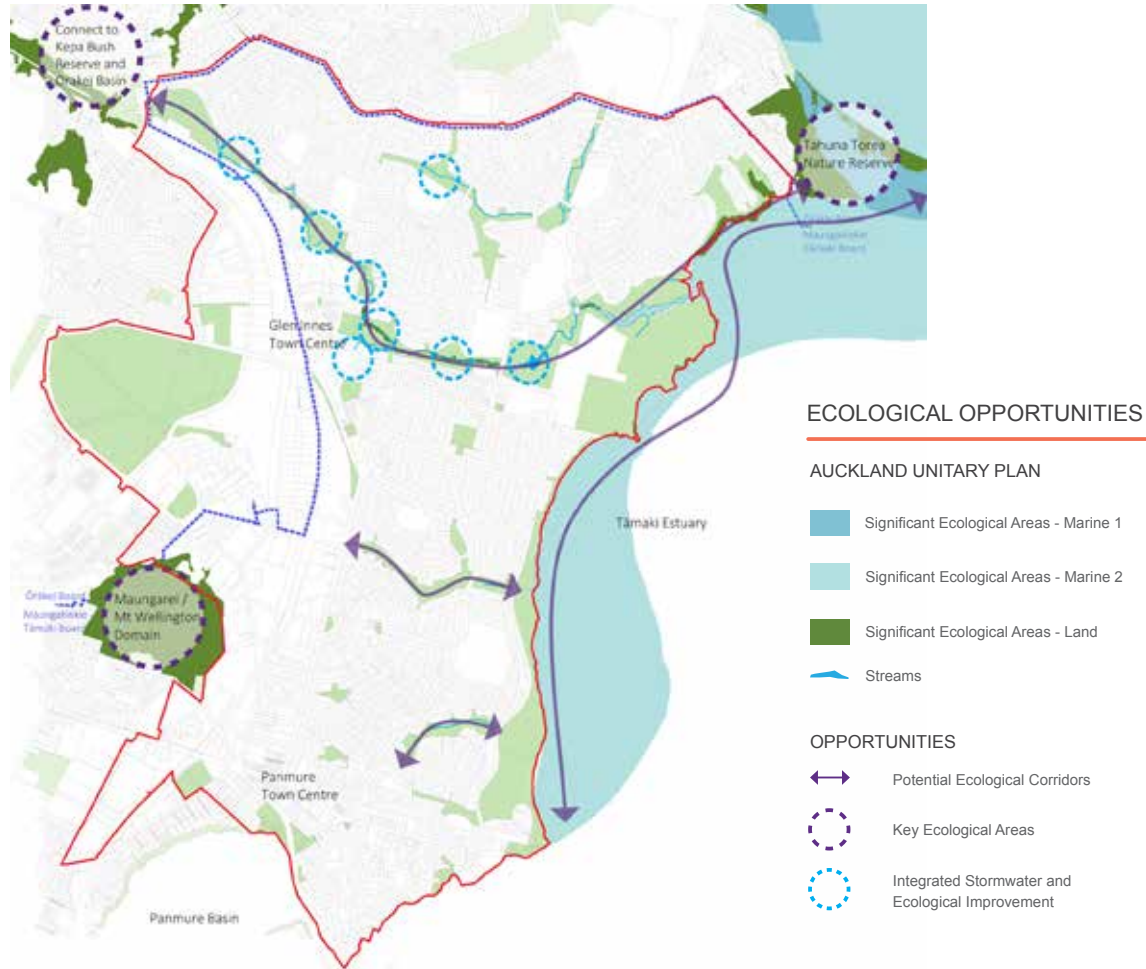
Create designated areas for shorebird roosting and nesting.

improve water quality  
stormwater management plan  
to access and interact with

Develop a conservation strategy for remnant endemic species.

Imple  
Plan:

- + Encourage community groups who are working to improve water quality.












## 4.0 ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### 4.10 MT WELLINGTON WAR MEMORIAL RESERVE

**Role:** A Destination Park with sports, recreational and play amenity

-  Upgrade existing local playground to a destination playground.
-  Implement Greenways priority links shared path along coast and at Dunkirk Road.
-  Implement Mt Wellington War Memorial Reserve Concept plan.
-  Enhance existing coastal planting to strengthen ecological value.
-  Enhancement of coastal ecosystems (Taiao & Mauri Tu).
-  Potential opportunity for Mauinaina Pā narrative (Mahi Toi).
-  Opportunities for Whakapapa.

**Timeframe:** 1-3 years

Existing bird roost compromised by:








- Greenway
- Planting
- Increased recreational activity

Loss of: South Island pied oystercatcher, variable oystercatcher and banded dotterel roosting area.

#### EXISTING

-  Study area
-  Reserve
-  Existing stream
-  Existing path
-  Existing pedestrian crossing
-  Existing sports fields
-  Existing club or leisure centre

#### PROPOSED

-  Improve entrance visibility
-  Ecological planting
-  Proposed path
-  Proposed safe connection
-  Upgrade to destination playground
-  Reserve Proposal
-  Future greenways network
-  Future cycle network



## 4.0 ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

### 4.13 POINT ENGLAND RESERVE

**Role:** A Destination Park with sports fields, play, beach amenity, and ecological / environmental function

#### Subject to the Point England Development Enabling Act 2017

- Upgrade existing playground to a destination playground.
- Improve quality of remaining sports fields.
- Light remaining sports fields.
- Undertake planning and Resource Management Act 1991 processes to comply with the Point England Development Enabling Act 2017 requirement to build 3.1 hectares of new fields on reserve.
- Implement 'Greenways' path network and maintain and improve other path connections within the reserve for passive recreation, including around housing development land and adjacent to Omaru Creek.
- Work with MBIE and future developer of housing development land to provide for direct physical and physical path linkage between Glen Innes Town Centre and the Tāmaki Estuary.
- Integrate Point England Pond improvement project with revegetation of Omaru Creek by riparian planting to improve ecological function and resilience against flood events.
- Enhance existing coastal planting to strengthen ecological value.
- Cease grazing to comply with Point England Development Enabling Act 2017 requirements and implement alternatives to maintain and enhance bird roosting and nesting environments, including provision of dog-free areas and enhanced pest control.
- Revitalisation of stream and native ecosystem (Taiao & Mauri Tu).
- Opportunities for recognition and expression of cultural sites (Taiao & Mauri Toi).
- Integration by good design of proposed Local Purpose Marae Reserve (under a future Ngāti Paoa Treaty Settlement) with wider reserve (Mana)
- Opportunities for whakapapa

**Timeframe:** 1-3 years +

Lighting, drainage, new sports fields and threats introduced by the housing development will likely destroy the bird roost and breeding habitat.



## SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

- Ask and expert how much space is required to maintain the small number of remaining birds or to grow the populations to a healthier number.
- Consult with an expert on which spaces would best suit shorebirds.
- Designate and protect space for shorebirds and a healthy Tāmaki Estuary.

*“Unlike the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours, the Tamaki Estuary has very few high tide roosts for shorebirds. The carrying capacity of intertidal areas for shorebirds is linked to the proximity of good high tide roosts. If roosts are degraded or lost, the numbers of shorebirds using the adjacent intertidal feeding areas may decline. “*

– Dr Tim Lovegrove (2016)