

Whitireia Park Management Plan and Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016



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Whitireia Park Board



Ngāti Toa Rangatira



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao



Message from the Park Board

The Whitireia Park Management Plan outlines a positive vision for the park and directions for management over the next 10 years. It updates and replaces the plan developed in 1978, and was developed with significant input from local groups and others who submitted comments during the plan development and public feedback stages.

The Plan recognises the significant cultural and natural heritage features of the park and outlines a range of policies and proposals to guide management activities and improve facilities for park visitors. These improvements include upgrading the Kaitawa Pou car park, landscaping and adding panels to reveal park stories, installing picnic tables in the Onehunga and Kaitawa Bay areas, and development of a shared use track to offer an alternative access route to the road to Onehunga Bay for walkers and cyclists.

Proposals to improve the parks' natural environment include restoration plantings to connect forest remnants and a range of weed removal and pest animal management works. The Plan also includes updated bylaws which outline rules for activities. For example, to help minimise the threat of damaging fires in the park, only gas barbeques will be permitted in the park.

Development of this new plan is an important milestone in the park's history and it provides sound directions for management of this well-loved park.



Cr Barbara Donaldson

Chair, Whitireia Park Board

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Mihi

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha kei waenganui i a koutou, nau mai, haere mai ki raro i te korowai mahana nei o Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

He mihi tēnei ki a koutou katoa o te hāpori nei o Porirua. He mea taketake ana ki a tātou katoa o te rohe nei, ko te āhua me te orange o te takiwa ara ko Whitireia ki a Porirua. E whai ake nei ētehi “Tatai Whakahaere me ētehi Pāero” e pa ana ki Whitireia hei hāpai i ngā mahi e pā ana ki te manaaki, e pā ana ki te āta tiaki i tēnei taonga puiaki o tātou.

Greetings to the many peoples, to the many voices, and to the many affiliations that we share together within our community of Porirua. Ngāti Toa Rangatira extends a warm welcome to you all. The Whitireia Park Management Plan and Bylaws aim to sustainably manage and develop the area as an important Taonga to Ngāti Toa Rangatira and all people within our local and extended communities. The following Whitireia Park “Management Plan and Bylaws” outlines a number of objectives and activities for the long-term enjoyment and sustainability of this unique and precious resource.

Definitions

Amenity value - the physical, functional, cultural and spiritual characteristics of a place or landscape that people find attractive and/or gain enjoyment from

Ecological district - a local part of New Zealand where the topographical, geological, climatic, soil and biological features, including the broad cultural pattern, produce a characteristic landscape and range of biological communities (Source: DOC Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand, 1987).

Ecological region - an aggregation of adjacent ecological districts with closely related characteristics (Source: DOC Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand, 1987).

Habitat restoration - the rehabilitation of habitats to support indigenous flora and fauna, ecosystem functions and natural processes that would naturally occur in the ecosystem and locality (Source: GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan, 2015).

kai moana - seafood

kaitiaki - guardian, caretaker, trustee

kaitiakitanga - guardianship, the act of taking care

Key Native Ecosystem - an ecosystem managed under the GWRC Key Native Ecosystem Programme. Key Native Ecosystems are managed to ensure the protection of the full range of terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in the Wellington region. Management of sites can include control of ecological weeds and pests, fencing to exclude stock, restoration planting, and assistance with legal protection.

Local native species - in this plan, a species which occurs naturally in the Sounds-Wellington ecological region (encompassing Wellington and Cook Strait ecological districts).

Native species - a plant or animal species which occurs naturally in New Zealand. A synonym is “indigenous”. (Source: NZ Biodiversity Strategy, 2000)

Native weed species - native plants which are capable of causing at some time a serious adverse and unintended effect in relation to the survival and distribution of other indigenous plants or indigenous animals, or the sustainability of natural and developed ecosystems (Source: GWRC Regional Pest Management Strategy, 2002).

Non-local native species - in this plan, a species which occurs naturally in New Zealand but not the Sounds-Wellington ecological region.

manakitanga - hospitality

mana whenua - tribe that is recognised as having guardianship of an area

moemoeā - vision

manuhiri - visitors

Pāero - bylaws

pēpeha/whakatauki - proverb or motto

Pest animal species - animals which are capable of causing at some time a serious adverse and unintended effect in relation to the survival and distribution of indigenous plants or animals, or the sustainability of natural and developed ecosystems (Source: GWRC Regional Pest Management Strategy, 2002).

rohe - tribal area

taonga - treasure

Ruataki Whakahaere/Tatai Whakahaere - management plan

urupā - cemetery

Weed species - plants which are capable of causing at some time a serious adverse and unintended effect in relation to the survival and distribution of indigenous plants or animals, or the sustainability of natural and developed ecosystems (Source: GWRC Regional Pest Management Strategy, 2002).

whenua - land



Onehunga Bay is a popular launch and stopping-off place for sea kayakers

1: Introduction



The rationale for the plan and process for its development

Areas designated reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 require a management plan to direct the maintenance, protection and preservation of an area, ensuring that its use and enjoyment are provided for (Reserves Act Section 41(3), authors paraphrase). The management of the reserve is to be in keeping with its classification under the Act. A previous management plan was developed by Lands and Survey (the predecessor of the Department of Conservation) in 1978. Relevant information from that plan has been carried forward into this management plan.

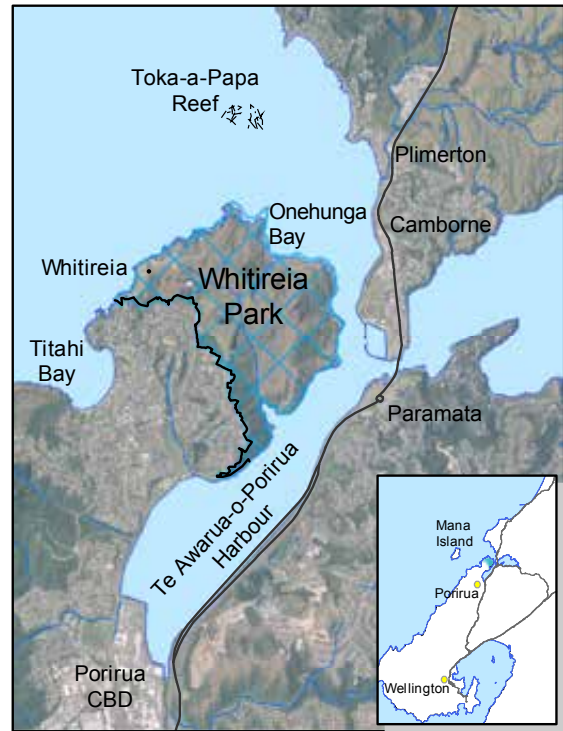
Whitireia Park is comprised of land tenures that include recreation reserve, historic reserve and land leased from the Crown. Within its boundaries is also a Māori reservation for the purposes of creating urupā. This urupā does not come under management of the Whitireia Park Board.

Consultation to develop the draft plan occurred in late 2014 and included a park user survey in the summer of 2015.¹ Comments were gathered through public meetings and written submissions. In preparing this management plan the public have expressed what is important to them about the park and what they would like a management plan to consider. This management plan has taken into account this feedback, and feedback received during the public consultation period from late June to late August 2015 (with thirty eight submissions received from the public and reserve stakeholders).

Whitireia Park is a headland located adjacent to the suburban community of Titahi Bay and is a dominant feature of the Porirua Basin (refer to Map 1: Location of Whitireia Park). It is similar to regional parks in that it has regenerating bush, open space and provides for a diverse range of recreational opportunities.

It contains special features and values and provides a complementary experience which contributes to the network of regional parks. However, its governance structure is unique in that a Park Board (rather than a district or regional council) is the administering body responsible for the Park.

The joint board was established through the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 and with membership comprising appointees from the Wellington Regional Council and the Toa Rangatira Trust. Greater Wellington Regional Council manages the day to day operations of the park under the direction of the Park Board.



Map 1: Location of Whitireia Park

Moemoeā - Vision described

Ko Whitireia te Maunga
(Whitireia is our mountain)
Ko Raukawa te Moana
(Raukawa is our sea)
Ko Ngāti Toa Rangatira te Iwi
(Ngāti Toa is our people)



Replica of Kupe's anchor stone at Onehunga Bay. The original can be seen at Te Papa Tongarewa, National Museum in Wellington

This pēpeha is an expression of cultural identity for both Ngāti Toa Rangatira and for the Park. For the Ngāti Toa people, and for many who live, work and play in the area, Whitireia is one of the key parts of that identity.

The moemoeā (vision) for this plan is shaped on this basis and has three strands. These strands,

¹ Corydon Consultants Ltd, Whitireia Park Recreation and Leisure Study, prepared for Greater Wellington Regional Council, March 2015.

bound together like an anchor rope, will provide a security that the public can enjoy the Park for today and pass on this taonga for our tamariki of tomorrow.

Vision

Three strands to the moemoeā are based on Whitireia Park being an ANCHOR for our community, a place to DISCOVER and BELONG to.

1. Increase environmental resilience by restoring and linking ecosystems and managing open space (ANCHOR)

This strand of the vision recognises the strong environmental focus needed to protect and enhance the ecosystems and habitats present in the park. Whitireia was once intensively farmed, with little thought given to protecting the environment. Over the years, park management and restoration efforts have sought to reduce threats and restore the habitats along the coastline, streams and hills. Of particular concern is the need to reduce the fire risk on the Park.

The Park is located on a headland situated in Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour (refer Map 1), 4km from Mana Island Scientific Reserve and 2km from Porirua Scenic Reserve. It provides both a home and also a stepping stone for birds.

Open space needs to be managed in a way that keeps the fire risk low and protects the cultural heritage features that lie beneath, all the while allowing visitors to make use of the area.

2. Encourage and promote park visits, make welcoming places to play, celebrate, contemplate and recreate (DISCOVER).

This strand of the vision aims to give the best visitor's experience starting with entry to the park. It involves providing amenities and park infrastructure and ensuring that people feel welcome to come and bring others. Promotion, events, signage and park ranger presence all contribute to this.

Recognising that one of the attractions is the wild nature of the landscape and the sense of retreat from the city, development should be limited and in keeping with the natural landscape.

3. Build connections between people and the land, cultural and natural heritage features and events (BELONG)

Whitireia Park is a significant feature in Māori ancient history and the land remains important to the Ngāti Toa Rangatira people. The responsibility of kaitiakitanga is borne by the community and that sense of care is enhanced as people realise their connections to the land.

Encouraging this can be woven into built features as well as through, volunteering, interpretation, education, attending Park Board meetings and events.

The three strands of the vision have informed the objectives, policies and actions contained within Part 3 of this plan.

10 year plan, reasons for review

The moemoeā (vision) contained within the plan sets the long term direction for the park's management for the next 10 years. Amendments may be required during this time as new issues arise or changes in law or policy occur.

How to use the plan

This plan is comprised of five sections:

Section 1: Introduction

Provides the context for why a management plan is needed and the moemoeā (vision) for Park. This moemoeā guides the policy direction contained in the plan. Each of the actions specified in the plan should be contributing to the moemoeā.

Section 2: Background

Provides historical, cultural, environmental and property details about the land. The information here helps build a picture of the importance of the park to people and particularly mana whenua today. Understanding significance is essential to managing park assets.

Section 3: Objectives, Policies and Actions

Outlines the objectives and policies as well as listing the actions proposed during the next 10 years. The objectives may be measured and reported on, to ensure that the Plan is being implemented and that progress is made towards achieving the vision. The actions to be undertaken in the first few years are mapped out to indicate some of the immediate changes expected in the Park.

Section 4: Activity rules and process to consider new developments

Includes a quick reference table for what activities are allowed in the park and what activities are controlled in some way or prohibited. Some activities can occur without permission because of their low-impact nature, whereas others will need some level of permission from an authorised person (eg, the park ranger), Park Board or in some cases the Department of Conservation.

These rules are supported by the Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016.

Section 5: Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016

Bylaws outline where people undertaking activities become a nuisance to others or treat the environment badly. Authorised people (namely, the park rangers) can enforce the bylaws through warnings and prosecutions against persons breaching the Whitireia Park Bylaws 2015.

This management plan is the guiding document for decision making by the Park Board but it is important to note that the plan does not remove the need for consents or authorisations required by other plans or regulatory frameworks, in particular, the Resource Management Act 1991 (under which regional plans and district plans are made) and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. For example, where an activity involves the disturbance of the ground (such as cutting a new track) consent would be required from Heritage New Zealand, Porirua City Council, Radio New Zealand and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. There are other planning documents that also have a bearing on the content of this Plan and that need to be considered when making decisions (such as the Regional Policy Statement and GWRC Biodiversity Strategy 2011-21, GWRC Long-Term Plan and GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan).

This plan will be implemented via the annual GWRC Parks Operational Plan programme, and progress reported at Park Board Meetings.



Kaitawa Bay, a popular place for picnics and dog walking

2: Background



This section provides historical, environmental and management information about Whitireia Park. This context is important when determining the way the park is managed as it determines what values are taken into account when making decisions, what issues are historical or new, what information should be considered when developing interpretation and so on. The following section attempts to be comprehensive but does rely on the reader referring to source information for further detail. The footnotes offer a list of recommended reading.

**Kōrero Tuku Iho:
Cultural and Historical Associations**

Ko Whitireia te maunga
Ko Raukawa te moana
Ko Ngāti Toa Rangatira te iwi

Whitireia is a significant area of cultural and spiritual importance within the entire rohe of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. The cultural significance of Whitireia is reflected in the pēpeha above which gives expression to the inextricable connection between the people (tangata, in this case Ngāti Toa Rangatira) and the land (whenua). The references made in this pēpeha to sacred landmarks, such as Whitireia, embody the mana and identity of Ngāti Toa Rangatira as mana whenua.

Prior to the arrival of Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the area, Whitireia was associated with a much earlier Polynesian ancestor Kupe, whose epic skills as a navigator and explorer brought him across the great Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (Pacific ocean) in search of the giant wheke (octopus). Kupe eventually caught and killed Te Wheke o Maturangi at the entrance to the Tory Channel, in the Cook Strait. Through his pursuit of the wheke, Kupe became the first person to circumnavigate Aotearoa, naming places as he moved around the country, many of which are still in common usage today. It was Kupe who named Whitireia, an ancient name extending back centuries to Hawaiki, the place from whence all Māori originate.

Kupe discovered Whitireia while searching for his canoe, which had blown out to sea while he was climbing to the top of Komanagarautawhiri (south of Titahi Bay) for a better view of Cook Strait in search of the wheke. Eventually the canoe came ashore at Onehunga Bay (at the entrance to Te Awarua-o-Porirua). As a gesture of appreciation to the Atua (deities and spiritual forces) which had responded to his incantations by returning his canoe to him, Kupe decided to leave his anchor stone named Maungaroa behind at Onehunga Bay.

In the 1840s European soldiers chipped pieces off the stone, possibly by firing a cannon at it. Shortly afterwards some of these men drowned in a boating accident. Ngāti Toa Rangatira, who were by then guardians of Maungaroa, regarded this as punishment. Te Kahurangi spoke 'Think

you, friend, that they could have drowned on a calm day by ordinary means? No! It was the anger of the gods at the act of desecration. Kaitoa!'.¹ In 1908 the stone and its fragments were taken by the Dominion Museum for safe keeping and is held at Te Papa Tongarewa. As present-day kaitiaki of Whitireia, Ngāti Toa Rangatira also has obligations as kaitiaki of Kupe's ancient anchor stone. A replica of the stone is located in the Park at Onehunga Bay.

Early Māori occupation of land and harbour

According to local historian Joe Boulton, it is believed the earliest inhabitants of the Porirua district were Tini Maruiwi, who were moa-hunters and when engaged in hunting used to camp in the area². Soon after these people, a migrant from Hawaiki named Whatonga and his two sons Tara and Tauoki arrived with their tribes – Ngāti Tara and Ngāti Ira, between about 1250 to 1350 ad. It is presumed that these two tribes remained in possession of the land until the 1820s when Ngāti Toa Rangatira led by Te Rauparaha and his nephew Te Rangihaeata invaded and took control of the Porirua District. Ngāti Toa Rangatira trace their ancestry to the Tainui people who migrated from Kawhia down the west coast and settled in the Porirua area which, like their original home, was a coastal area with harbour waters equally rich in kai moana.

The Whitireia peninsula and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour hold significance as providing the shortest crossing of Cook Strait from the west coast of the North Island. Te Rauparaha is reputed to have told Governor Grey that whoever held Paremata and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour controlled the northern approaches to Wellington. Gaining control of the Porirua Harbour then became a primary objective of the Crown and ultimately led to the demise of Ngāti Toa's maritime empire.

The intensive occupation of Whitireia by various Māori groups over centuries is reflected in the presence of numerous wāhi tapu and other cultural sites over the peninsula. These include urupā, kāinga, pa, middens, pits, terraces and tauranga waka (anchorages for canoe). Over one hundred archaeological sites have been recorded in the area and there is still potential for others to be discovered in the future. Heritage information held by Porirua City Council indicates that there were Māori settlements on the Peninsula at Te Onepoto, Kaiaua, Te Neke, Te Kahikatoa, Onehunga and Kaitawa (these are illustrated on Map 2, page 17). Of significance, Whitireia is home to a number of sets of terraces which have generally thought used for kumara or potato growing. More detail is provided under the archaeology section.

1 Dominion, Volume 1, Issue 202, 20 May 1908, Page 8 <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=D0M19080520.2.50>, accessed Feb 2015

2 Articles by Joe Boulton, Porirua Library newspaper clipping Subject File 14 Dated pre-1997.

It is not clear as to the extent which the Ngāti Toa Rangatira people occupied (through fortified pa or other settlements) Whitireia Peninsula. According to Williams the main pa were Taupo Pa (Plimmerton), Pauatananui Pa and Mana Island³. In Kemp's census of 1850 he makes no mention of people living, or having recently lived at Onepoto, Onehunga or any other former settlements on Whitireia peninsula. Kaitawa was probably the last remaining minor settlement in the early 1840s. It was likely that by this time Takapuwahia had become a significant settlement as it was close to the trade routes and Port Nicholson⁴. Nevertheless the Whitireia peninsula coastline was an important mahinga kai for Ngāti Toa Rangatira and continues to be used for this purpose today.

Sadly, the abundance and health of kai moana stocks has deteriorated over the years as a consequence of over-fishing and the degradation of coastal waters. In terms of the inner harbour, the Ngāti Toa Rangatira people were able to harvest kai moana from this area (particularly cockles and mussels) up until the 1950s when the government commenced large scale housing developments in the area and the expansion of the city centre.

The development of Porirua Hospital, urban development and large scale reclamation have caused sedimentation, sewerage, pollution and resulted in the deterioration in health of the harbour. Today, the harbour generally experiences poor water quality and is unable to sustain quality habitat for kai moana. This has undermined the ability of Ngāti Toa Rangatira to exercise customary fishing rights in the harbour, and also to meet cultural obligations in extending manākitanga (hospitality) to manuhiri (visitors).

The lead up to alienation of land in Porirua

Governor Grey saw that "Porirua is the key to the Wellington district, being the place through which all the roads from all the other settlements pass to that place." His preference was that the area was under the authority of the crown and formulated a specific plan of military conquest and settlement. Additionally, the New Zealand Company had already 'sold' to settlers the land in Porirua and the Wairau, but could not actually obtain a Crown grant there unless the Crown itself was to remove title of Ngāti Toa Rangatira at both places. By April 1846 Grey had discussed the matter of the Porirua sections with Wakefield and had promised him that he would acquire land there for the New Zealand Company.⁵

The British army began by forcing out Ngāti Tama and then Ngāti Rangatahi from the Hutt Valley.

Martial law was declared in the area in March 1846 and then extended north to Wanganui in July. At this point, Grey formulated a plan to simply kidnap Te Rauparaha, the great chief of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. It was managed through a surprise attack on Taupo pa on Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Wellington militia, in a government armed steamer travelled from Port Nicholson to Porirua overnight and ambushed the pa, seizing Te Rauparaha (still an imposing man at age 70) and four other chiefs. Te Rauparaha was detained here for two years, with no trial – and certainly he was not present when the Wairau and Porirua deeds were executed the following year.⁶

The government then set their sights on pursuing Te Rangiahaeata, the second of the head chiefs of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. They sought to capture him at Pauatahanui pa. Unsuccessful, they ventured further inland along the Horokiwi stream and climbed the hill to attack Te Rangiahaeata and his men who had built a temporary pa at the place now known as Battle Hill. On 6 August 1846 the Government forces attacked and tried to storm the pa. The battle went on for several days and casualties were heavy on both sides. On 13 August, after losing at least nine people and only just surviving on mamaku, Ngāti Toa Rangatira warriors retreated north. While the British continued to pursue Te Rangiahaeata as he went north, they did not capture him and Te Rangiahaeata sought shelter at Poroutawhao a pa belonging to Ngāti Huia. Te Rangiahaeata remained in exile at Poroutawhao, north of Levin, from where he continued to oppose land sales to the Crown.⁷

As a result of Crown action, by the start of 1847, Ngāti Toa Rangatira had effectively been crushed. Their great chief Te Rauparaha, cut off from his people, and Te Rangiahaeata forced into exile at Poroutawhao, were unable to influence events. Leadership of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Raukawa now fell to three younger chiefs. It was in this context which the Porirua Deed of 1 April 1847, by that Ngāti Toa Rangatira alienated to the Crown an extensive area from Ohariu (Makara) to Wainui (Paekakariki), was signed. As David Williams notes in *A simple nullity*, these young chiefs were in a difficult position and signed the deed "without authorisation from their tribal leaders, and without taking account of the views that might be expressed at a hui of tribal members".⁸ Both Te Rauparaha and Te Rangiahaeata's names are noticeably absent from the deed.⁹

Te Rauparaha was brought back from exile in January 1848, too late to influence the signing of the Porirua Deed. The deed specifically left

3 David V. Williams, 'A simple nullity', *The Wi Parata case in New Zealand law & history*, 2011: Auckland University Press

4 Brief of Evidence of Richard Peter Boast, Part Five: Social Impacts and Social History, June 11, 2003:5.

5 Brief of Evidence of Richard Peter Boast, Part 2: The Wairau, the Cook Strait Crisis of 1843 and the Crown's Coercion of Ngāti Toa 1843 – 1847, Dated 9 June 2003, page 33.

6 *ibid*, page 32.

7 *ibid* p. 36

8 David V. Williams, 'A simple nullity', *The Wi Parata case in New Zealand law & history*, 2011: Auckland University Press, p. 34.

9 Brief of Evidence of Richard Peter Boast, Part Four: Land Transactions and the Native Land Court Dated 11 June 2003, pages 7-9

unceded some native reserve blocks, including the Aotea and Whitireia Blocks.

Gifts and subsequent loss

The gifting and subsequent loss of Whitireia is well explained in David Williams' book 'A simple nullity', The Wi Parata case in New Zealand law & history. The Ngāti Toa people wanted their children living in the Porirua area to be educated and approached Bishop Selwyn, from the Anglican Church, to establish a school on land at Whitireia. In August 1848, eight individuals of Ngāti Toa Rangatira, including Te Rauparaha, Tamihana Te Rauparaha, Matene Te Whiwhi, Hoani Te Okoro, Watarauhi, Nohorua, Waitere, Wiremu Te Kanae and Rawiri Puaha, gifted 500 acres of land at Whitireia. It was agreed that the gifting was for the express purpose of education.¹⁰ The area gifted seems extensive, but was argued to be necessary to obtain the isolation desired in order for students to focus and be protected from 'detrimental influences'. The land is described at that time as being 200 acres covered with wood, with the remainder open, rising into grassy hills with steep declivities to the sea-beach.

The area set aside for the College was fenced and building began but then controversy regarding church schools elsewhere meant the college plans came to a grinding halt. When Ngāti Toa Rangatira requested that the land be returned, they were told that the land was no longer in their possession but that the Crown had granted title to the Church. Indeed, in 1850 a grant from the Crown was, without the knowledge or consent of the tribe, issued to the George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand.

Some years later, Wi Parata raised this matter before a select committee of the Legislative Council and in 1876 Parata and others petitioned for the return of the land. The Native Affairs Committee reported that it was not prepared to recommend that a school should be established at Whitireia or that the land should be returned to Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Wi Parata then took the case to the Supreme Court, *Wi Parata v Bishop of Wellington*, 1877.

It was noted by Wiremu Parata's lawyer that "The native title to the land granted has never been lawfully extinguished. At the time of the gift the land formed part of a reserve set apart by the Government for the exclusive use and purposes of the Ngatitua tribe". The Court held that the grant had extinguished native title and that, in law, the Crown is to be regarded as the donor and not the Ngāti Toa Rangatira tribe. The Supreme Court case is infamous because Parata argued that Article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi, namely that the Crown 'confirmed and guaranteed' protection of Māori whenua (land) and resources, had been breached.

The judge, James Prendergast, dismissed the relevance of the Treaty of Waitangi, stating 'it must be regarded as a simple nullity.'¹¹ There continued to be petitions made by Ngāti Toa Rangatira over subsequent years but to no avail.

The Wi Parata Case highlights the unique historical and cultural significance of Whitireia to Ngāti Toa Rangatira and also the important role of Ngāti Toa Rangatira descendant, Wi Parata, in having the foresight to bring the first case against the Crown based on its failure to uphold the guarantees of the Treaty of Waitangi. Although the case resulted in the Treaty having no legal effect for nearly one hundred years (until the establishment of the Waitangi Tribunal in 1975 which acknowledged the legitimacy of the Treaty and the need for inquiries into the acts and omissions of the Crown) it could still be argued that the current Treaty settlement process, through which all Māori have the ability to bring their claims, effectively began with Wi Parata's case in 1877.

As an aside, one of the unanticipated consequences was the adoption of Mormonism by Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Two Ngāti Toa Rangatira kuia, Ramari Wineera and Eileen Rene, in recordings made in the 1980s, both recall their elders recounting how Whitireia was given to the Church of England as a place for a college for Māori. When the church decided to build a school in Otaki, and the land was refused to be returned, "the old people thought, well, if a church can do things like that then it weren't worth staying with" (Oral history, Ramari Wineera, Porirua library). The elders then invited the Church of the Latter Day Saints to come and baptise Ngāti Toa Rangatira families and many remain within the Church of the Latter Day Saints today.

In 1924 the Porirua College Trustees sold 25 acres of land at Whitireia. In 1935, a further 100 acres was sold to the New Zealand Broadcasting Board. In 1948 and 1960, the Crown took several hundred acres of Ngāti Toa Rangatira land at Takapuwahia under public works legislation for general housing. This, along with the taking or selling of land in other areas, left Ngāti Toa Rangatira virtually landless.¹²

The remaining Whitireia land was finally sold to the Crown in 1973 (283 acres) for the purpose of a public reserve and today forms the majority of Whitireia Park.

¹¹ What is not widely known is that the facts of the case were never tested in a full trial as the demurrer (a form of pleading) filed by the Attorney-General representing the Crown was allowed. The Court had determined the matter purely on a basis of law, and consequently refused to set aside the Crown grant. David Williams comments in his book that "the possibility that a Crown grant had not extinguished native title once and for all time, it was believe, would seriously disturb settlers' titles to land throughout the colony." (David V. Williams, 'A simple nullity', *The Wi Parata case in New Zealand law & history*, 2011: Auckland University Press p116).

¹² Ngāwiti Toa Settlement Summary, provided by Office of Treaty Settlements online (<http://nz01.terabyte.co.nz/ots/fb.asp?url=livearticle.asp?ArtID=-670688307>).

¹⁰ Ngāti Toa Rangatira and trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust and the Crown Deed of Settlement of Historical Claims, 7 Dec 2012

Treaty settlement and implications for Whitireia (all recent events)

In 1986, 14 Ngāti Toa Rangatira individuals lodged the Ngāti Toa Tribunal Claim (Wai207) on behalf of the Iwi. The claim covered the entire area of Ngāti Toa Rangatira's traditional rohe. Over the next 30 years, the claim was the subject of two Waitangi Tribunals and in 2007 the terms of negotiation were agreed between Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the Crown. Part of the claim was about the loss of Ngāti Toa's traditional relationship with Whitireia.

Following the agreement of the package for redress, the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Deed of Settlement was signed on 7 December 2012 and accompanying legislation passed in April 2014. The Ngāti Toa Rangatira Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Toa Rangatira resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992, and is made up of a package that includes:

- an agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgments which form the basis for a Crown apology to Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- cultural redress
- financial and commercial redress.

In this settlement the Crown acknowledges the historical and cultural significance of Whitireia to Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Specific redress has been provided through Ngāti Toa Rangatira's settlement for the loss of rangatiratanga (full authority) over Whitireia. As part of the cultural redress three sites within Whitireia Park are now vested in Ngāti Toa Rangatira: Onehunga Bay (2 sections, 6.03 ha), Te Onepoto Bay (0.66 ha) and Whitireia urupā site (1.01 ha). The location of these sites is illustrated on Map 3 Te Onepoto Bay is also the subject of a Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition.

Whitireia Park management arrangement

The redress also includes a new arrangement for the management of Whitireia Park. A joint board was established to manage the Whitireia Park recreation reserve, the Onehunga Bay historic reserve and Te Onepoto Bay recreation reserve. The joint board is composed of members appointed by the Wellington Regional Council and the Toa Rangatira Trust. Greater Wellington Regional Council is now tasked with the day to day management of the Park alongside the other Regional Parks that it manages. The specific wording of the settlement from the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 is as follows:

1.1 Clause 5.45 of this deed provides for:

1.1.1 the Onehunga Bay site to be vested in the governance entity as

an historic reserve; and

1.1.2 Te Onepoto Bay site to be vested in the governance entity as a recreation reserve.

1.2 The parties have agreed that:

1.2.1 the Whitireia Park recreation reserve will be controlled and

managed by a joint board comprising equal numbers of members appointed by the governance entity and by the Wellington Regional Council (joint board); and

1.2.2 the joint board will control and manage the Onehunga Bay historic reserve and Te Onepoto Bay recreation reserve and be the administering body for these reserves, unless the governance entity gives notice that it wishes to assume the role of administering body for those reserves.

The partnership ensures the values and aspirations of Ngāti Toa Rangatira for Whitireia are recognised and provided for in all relevant policies, plans and decision-making processes.

Archaeological sites

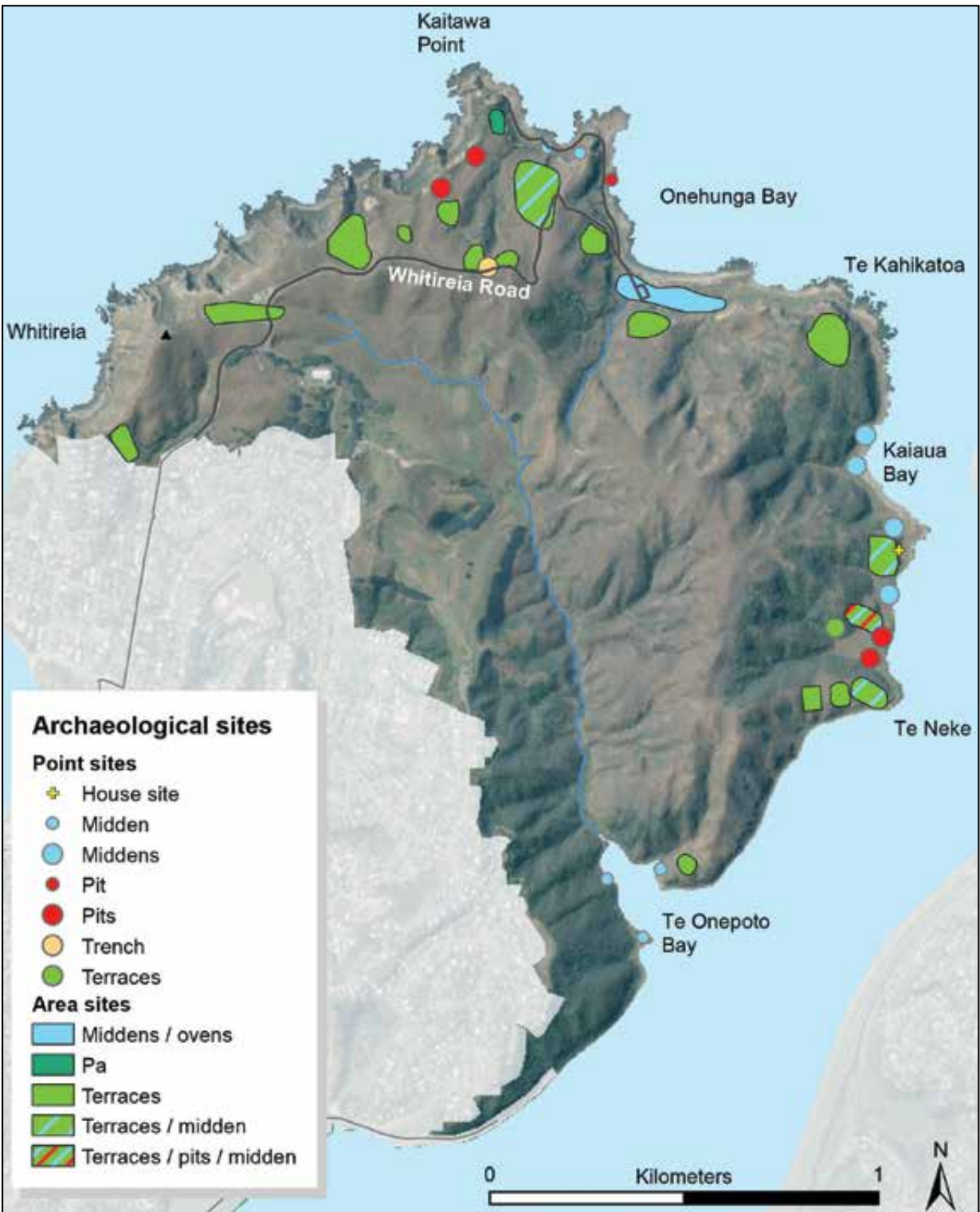
The area is rich in archaeological sites and has been settled for several centuries. The area was first surveyed by Best in 1914, most likely as part of his employment for Dominion Museum. There were a number of others studies done over the years but it was not until September 2001 that the Department of Conservation instigated a full study of the archaeological sites in the park, following some damage to a site by fencing. The Department of Conservation survey¹³ relocated sites in the field from four previous surveys and updated recorded information. The survey found 33 recorded sites, including one small pa, most of which represent Māori occupation dating up to about the 1840s. Terraces present accounted for 58% of sites and middens 33%. One recorded site (R26/109) was not found and is assumed to have been destroyed soon after it was first recorded in 1959. Two sites were recorded for the first time. These are illustrated in Map 2.

The terraces are frequently referred to in archaeological studies. It is understood that the terraces were used to produce kumara, although the origin of these terraces remains in doubt as there is some evidence suggesting that they might not be artificially constructed features.

The pa is located at Kaitawa Point and is thought to be a small hamlet occupied by Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the 1940s. Identification of the site as a pa is based on five spaced holes in a row across the neck of the headland.

Walton notes the following about the state of the sites:

13 A Walton., An archaeological survey of Whitireia Park, Porirua DOC Science Internal Series, 62., published 2002, DOC.



Map 2: Recorded archaeological sites. Cited from A. Walton, An archaeological survey of Whitireia Park, Porirua DOC Science Internal Series, 62. 2002, DOC.



The accidental discovery Protocol is followed when work reveals site archaeology

*"Few sites have been completely obliterated but most have suffered damage in one way or another. The site in Onehunga Bay described by Best has presumably been damaged by the carpark and other facilities but little is known of its original extent, how much has been damaged, and how much lies buried. Vehicle tracks formed along the coastal platform have also been destructive of middens. A number [of middens] ... are exposed in sections next to the track. Terraces have generally stood up well under grazing by sheep but heavy trampling by cattle is slowly breaking down features and is exposing the surface of middens on sites. ... As the recent damage to [one site] from fencing and the cattle damage indicate, continuing care is required to avoid further damage. The sites in Whitireia Park form a small but important group of sites in a region where archaeological sites have been, and are, under intense pressure from development."*¹⁴

Middens are dotted around the coastal area in the small bays and are mainly pipi shells (cockles). This accords with an 1844 account by Angus who visited the Porirua area and noted that "on emerging from the forest, we came upon the shores of the harbour, low sandy flats stretch out for some distance ... Many native homes are scattered along the margin of the harbour; as the tide was out, the women were busily employed in gathering pipis..."¹⁵

The previous management plan (Department of Lands and Survey 1978, p. 11) for Whitireia identifies four sites of significance to Māori. These are the headland east of Onepoto Bay, Te Neke, Te Kahikatoa, and Kaitawa. Although not precisely defined, these are all places with one or more recorded sites.

Threats to archaeology include replanting projects, track construction, erosion and vehicle use. Actions should be taken to avoid, minimise and mitigate these risks.

Radio New Zealand installation

The most prominent structures in the park are the radio transmitter masts. In 1932, the Broadcasting Board Coverage Commission recommended that the 2YA station in Mount Victoria, Wellington be overhauled and an emergency plant be provided. The Broadcasting Board selected the Whitireia site to provide the improved 2YA transmitter service and to become the sole New Zealand radio station for national emergencies.

In 1935, the Titahi Bay Transmitting Station Buildings were designed by prominent Wellington architects Crichton, McKay & Haughton and

included the main transmitting building, married and single men's residences, a garage, a 50,000 gallon water reservoir, a water reticulation and electrical wiring system. The aerial, a 230 metre mast, was designed to give the greatest radiation in the horizontal direction and least into the sky in an effort to reduce fading of the signal to a minimum. This is achieved through a mat of copper coils which are buried under the ground and extend out as far as the aerial is high.

The new station was officially opened on 25 January 1937 by the Prime Minister the Rt. Honourable Michael Joseph Savage.

Over the years there have been various changes. The water cooling system was problematic and replaced in 1960; the salt laden winds corroding the mast resulted in a new mast built in 1979; additional housing was added to accommodate staff (with up to 40 people living on site during 1979). There were two additional masts built at the site, one standing at 137 metres and the smallest approximately 50 metres. The larger transmitter masts are clearly visible from extensive areas outside of the park and are significant local landmarks. The main transmitter mast is New Zealand's second tallest structure (next to the Sky Tower, Auckland).

The station is now remotely operated from Wellington and transmits AM radio signals (567 kHz, 657 kHz, 1035 kHz and 1161 kHz) to the greater Wellington region. The building houses AM transmitter equipment. While contained in a fenced compound surrounded by macrocarpa, it is an impressive building built in the Modern style, with restrained Art Deco touches.

Radio New Zealand's infrastructure plans include removal of the 220m and 53m radio masts in early 2016 with radio transmission continuing on the 137m mast. A new radio mast is planned for the location of the previous 220m mast.

Today the site transmits the Radio New Zealand National's AM service, Radio NZ's Parliamentary "AM Network", Newstalk ZB, Access Radio and Te Upoko O Te Ika.

Material taken from: 'Radio NZ Transmission Station' Porirua Heritage Database, last updated 10 December 2009.

Location and physical context

The Park covers much of the peninsula extending northwards from Titahi Bay to the mouth of Te Awarua-o-Porirua (Refer to Map 1). The park is surrounded by coast on three sides and the community of Titahi Bay borders the park to the south.

The interior of the park consists of rolling hills crossed by Whitireia Road. This area is an elevated rolling plateau dissected by a central valley system which drains to Te Onepoto Bay in Te Awarua-o-

¹⁴ A. Walton, An archaeological survey of Whitireia Park, Porirua DOC Science Internal Series, 62., published 2002, DOC, p.8

¹⁵ *ibid.* p.16.



View towards Onehunga Bay. Extensive areas of grassland are a characteristic of the park

Porirua Harbour. The higher parts of the central valley system are grassland, previously grazed by cattle and sheep. The Titahi Bay Golf Club is situated in the centre of the valley basin.¹⁶

The remainder of the park comprises coastal escarpment and the associated coastal platform running in a rough semi-circle from the northern side of Tītahi Bay, round the headland through Onehunga Bay to Te Onepoto Bay inside Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. On the west, the rocky coast and high rugged cliffs above are exposed to strong prevailing westerly winds and turbulent seas. The faces above Onehunga Bay and the harbour on the east are less exposed, slope more gently and are home to areas of reverting native forest and shrubland.¹⁷ The eastern beaches are either sandy or stoney alongside the tidal shallows of Te Awarua-o-Porirua.

The park's coastal hillslopes and ridge lines with their rough vegetation cover form a distinctive backdrop to views of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour from State Highway One. They are also visually prominent to residents in much of the northern Porirua basin including Plimmerton, Paremata, Aotea, Camborne and Papakowhai. Whitireia Park is zoned 'Open Space' in the Porirua District Plan. The district plan refers to the Whitireia Park Reserve Management Plan as the main method of implementation for maintaining the values within. The area is noted as being special, given it occupies a prominent position at the entrance to the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and is a distinctive feature of Porirua city. Its retention as a large area of open space is essential

to the identity and character of the city.

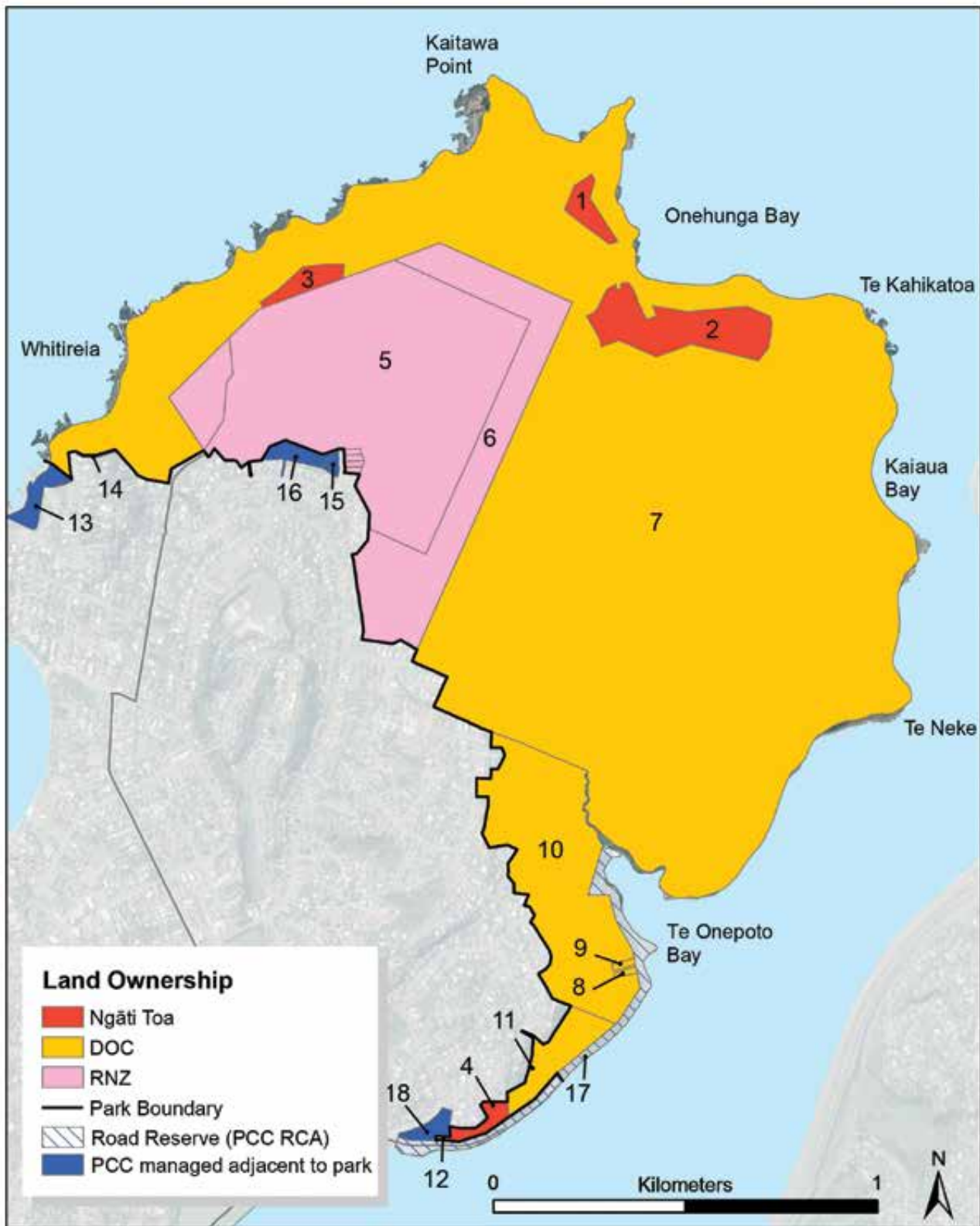
Land tenure and control

Whitireia Park is made up of a number of land parcels (Map 3 illustrates, refer to Appendix 1 for a list of land parcels). The majority of the land is recreation reserve, with a small parcel of historic reserve. The inland valley is mainly Radio New Zealand land of which the majority is leased to DOC for the purposes of managing the land as park land. The golf course is the only other lease in the park and is on both Radio New Zealand and recreation reserve land. As described earlier, the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provided the iwi with four parcels of land within the park. These are Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve (2 parcels), Te Onepoto Bay Recreation Reserve and a Māori Reservation which lies just below the summit of Whitireia and is set aside for the purposes of urupā (burial).

Adjacent to the Park there are also a number of parcels of land that are owned by Porirua City Council: Te Onepoto Road, Rocky Bay Reserve, Gloaming Hill Reserve, Owhiti Reserve and Richard Street walkway. Onepoto Road reserve is one of the main entrances to the Park. Currently it is not legally possible to prevent vehicle access to this land (while it remains a public road), despite the significant damage that has been caused to the estuary. Owhiti Reserve adjoins the Park to the south of the Broadcasting facilities. It was previously the location of a playground but this was removed by Porirua City Council and there is a well-utilised playground located nearby at the school. Richard Street walkway is effectively the most western entrance to Whitireia Park but its current state, sidling precariously along a cliff, does not provide safe public access into the park.

¹⁶ P A Handford and Associates, Whitireia Sustainable Land Use Plan, 2 May 2012, pg 4.

¹⁷ *ibid.*



Map 3: Land tenure and control. Refer to Appendix 1 for a description of each land parcel.

Creation of the park

According to the previous management plan, Whitireia Peninsula was first identified in 1972 as a potential recreation area by the Department of Lands and Survey:

“Because of its location, landscape qualities and the scope for a wide range of recreational use, that report identified the non-urbanised area of the Peninsula as having a high priority for acquisition and management as a regional reserve.”

In 1975, the company Smith and Smith Ltd (in celebration of 100 years of business) gave a substantial donation to the Crown to enable 114 hectares of the Whitireia Peninsula to be purchased as recreation reserve. The land was acquired from the Otaki and Porirua College Trust Board and it is noted with the generous co-operation of the Raukawa Trustees and the Ngāti Toa people.¹⁸ The park was formally established the following year.

¹⁸ Pamphlet prepared for the Whitireia Park Board by the Department of Lands and Survey, July 1985.



The park was previously managed for many years by the Department of Conservation and its predecessor the Department of Lands and Survey, guided by a management plan published in 1978

The Deed of Transfer also records the intentions of the Crown to use its best endeavours to bring the land vested in the Broadcasting Corporations of New Zealand under the administration and control of the Whitireia Park Board, which had its inaugural meeting on 3rd August 1977.

The Reserves Act 1977 required management plans for reserves to be developed and the newly formed Whitireia Park Board sought immediately to have a plan prepared and subsequently approved the Whitireia Management Plan in 1978. The terms of reference for the plan were

“To produce a plan to facilitate the establishment of generally informal, passive and extensive recreational use of Whitireia Park while conserving and enhancing the open space and other qualities which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and preserving the historic, archaeological and other features of the Reserve.”

This plan notes that a condition of sale was that an appropriate area surrounding Onehunga Bay known as the “anchorage” to be set aside and permanently preserved in such a way so as to protect the historical association of this area with the Ngāti Toa Rangatira tribe.

In the 1981 and 1982 Porirua City Council gave 15 hectares and 3.3 hectares to the park respectively. This was to provide better access from Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour side.

The Park Board were generally made up of representatives from Porirua City Council,

Raukawa Marae (Ngāti Toa), the Crown (ministerial positions), the Smith family. Throughout this time the Department of Conservation and its predecessor Lands and Survey oversaw the park’s day to day management and administration support of the Park Board.

Management of the park

Prior to the 1978 management plan, there was little effort made to encourage public use of the peninsula, so recreation had developed in an informal to ‘semi-organised’ manner. Walking, swimming and quiet enjoyment of the coast were noted as the main activities in the park brochure of the time. The exception to this was the Titahi Bay Golf Club, which since April 1958 has occupied a part of the park.

The balance of the park has been grazed¹⁹ and managed as a farm park for many years (with the aim to keep the land in pasture and reduce the fire risk). Both sheep and cattle were farmed on the property and were the main source of income for the Park Board. The road to Onehunga Bay was originally the farm road that led to the former woolshed (sited adjacent to the Onehunga Bay toilets). Les Iggulden farmed sheep on the park between 1959 and 1990 but in more recent years lessees have farmed cattle only.²⁰

With a growing urban population in adjacent Titahi Bay, there were increasing problems with

¹⁹ According to Walton, from the 1850s, the land at the northern end of the peninsula was used primarily for grazing stock (A Walton., An archaeological survey of Whitireia Park, Porirua DOC Science Internal Series, 62., published 2002, DOC, p. 7).

²⁰ Photo with caption, Evening Post 24 September, 1990.



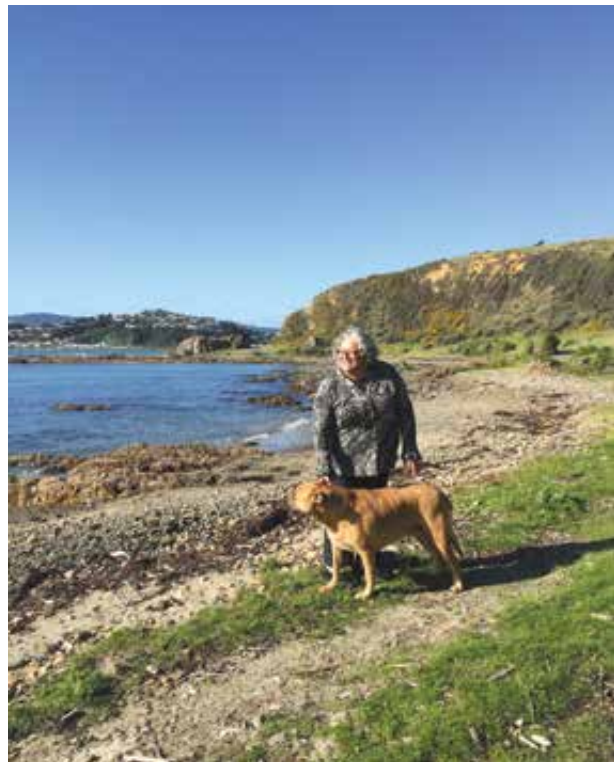
Park visitors are reminded to pick up their dogs' poo!

smothering when herds were spooked by a dog or people, and sheep rustling. Later cattle grazing also impacted natural values and contributed to erosion in the coastal and gully areas. Increasing scrutiny of farming practices in the park and the effect on the environment caused the Park Board to reassess the role of stock in the park. In 2011, the Park Board decided not to extend the grazing licence, resulting in year-round access to the park, without seasonal closures for lambing or stock movements. This plan identifies that stock grazing is now a prohibited activity.

Recreation in the past

From its inception, Whitireia Park has attracted people from the broader Wellington region. A 1973 study showed that the Whitireia coast and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour attracted people from throughout the Wellington region with Plimmerton, Pukerua Bay, Tawa and even Johnsonville relying on the Porirua Harbour and coast as its number one recreational facility.

Interestingly, the range of activities undertaken by visitors to the park has remained fairly consistent since the 1970s. The 1978 Park Management Plan notes golf being the only formal organised recreational use but also notes less formal activities such as rock climbing, hang gliding, bike riding, model aircraft flying, fishing, diving, swimming, as well as walking, picnicking and general fossicking along the shoreline. The notable omission is mountain biking which has risen hugely in popularity over the last 20 years. The management plan of the time noted:



Dog walking is one of the most popular activities undertaken in the park. In areas where dogs are permitted to be off leash, they must be under control at all times

"The nature and character of Whitireia Park is such that it is well suited to cater for 'unorganised' pursuits, in other words, activities where people 'do their own thing'.... The existing uses in the Park area which fall within the semi-organised category are there because of particular conditions which make the area attractive to them. For instance, rock climbing, hang-gliding and model airplane flying".

In terms of intensity of use, Onehunga Bay (also known as Shelley Bay), followed by Kaitawa Bay, were the main areas of gathering but people could be found right around the coastline.

Recreation today

The visitor survey undertaken in 2014 by Corydon Consultants²¹ recorded the following activities being undertaken by respondents in order of frequency):

1. Dog walking
2. Walking (without a dog)
3. Swimming
4. Sightseeing
5. Running
6. Picnicking
7. Beachcombing / fossicking on the shore
8. Mountain biking
9. Fishing
10. Diving/snorkelling (including spear fishing)
11. Kite surfing
12. Rock climbing

²¹ Corydon Consultants, Whitireia Park Recreation and Leisure Study, March 2015.

13. Playing on the beach
14. Kayaking
15. Paragliding/ hang gliding
16. Flying model aircraft.
17. Conservation works (eg planting, weeding)

While not included in the survey, golf is a major recreational activity in the park. Titahi Bay Golf club currently has a nine hole golf course. The club has plans to expand their lease area toward the road in the park to provide for a pitch'n'put, par 3, six hole course. Its long-term plan is to develop an 18 hole golf course.

A number of activities occur at Whitireia because of the unique conditions and landform which provide for various sports. For example, Onehunga Bay is one of the very few sites in the region for training new hang glider and paraglider pilots. The cliff top area, where updrafts are created by the onshore winds blowing up the cliff, makes this a world class slope soaring site. The Onehunga Bay picnic area is a popular launching place for kite surfers. Whitireia is perhaps the best outdoor venue for roped rock climbing in the Wellington region. It is used by clubs for alpine rock climbing because the location simulates alpine hazard conditions. Famous early rock climbers and mountaineers, Graeme Dingle and Bill Denz, frequented this area.

Because it caters for such a wide range of activities, conflicts inevitably occur between different visitor groups as a result of different values and expectations. The Whitireia Park Recreation and Leisure Study noted the following conflicts:

- Dog walkers who fail to remove dog droppings from tracks and other public areas or who poorly control their dogs when off a lead, which can end in other park users feeling threatened or intimidated by the dog's behaviour.
- The multi-use of the road within the park by vehicles and recreational users. Some walkers, runners and bikers currently use the road because no formed off-road alternative exists.

- Trail bike riders and 4WD going off-road, an activity that is prohibited in the park and leads to environmental damage and impacts other visitors enjoyment of the park.

These issues have been considered in determining the management actions within this plan. Some issues take time to see behavioural change or are just difficult to address (e.g noisy water sports are noted as lessening park users' experience of peace and quiet of the park). Monitoring park user experience will enable the Park Board to know what conflicts and issues are being resolved and what requires further intervention. Certainly vandalism and rubbish have been problems for a long time in the park, but decreasingly so in the last few years. The park was a popular spot for dumping car bodies until bollards were installed and resale value for scrap metal increased. There is far less damage by 4WD going off road but motorbikes continue to illegally access the park.

As well as a recreational setting, Whitireia Park is highly valued by residents of Porirua and the wider Wellington region as a landscape and ecological resource. This is summed up by one survey respondent:

"I like the rugged coastline. I love the hills and the tracks, the rugged terrain, and the close proximity. A touch of wilderness and it's just in the back yard"

The following two word diagrams illustrate the strength of appreciation for the various recreational and environmental attributes of the park.

The Recreation and Leisure Study reinforced a strong preference for keeping the park natural and wild. This encompassed protecting the natural character of the park; minimal upgrade and provision of facilities; keeping tracks to a basic standard; and retaining plenty of scope for informal enjoyment, exploration and adventure.

Landscape character

The topography of the park is a product of the ongoing interaction of geological uplift, marine erosion, changes in sea level and changes in

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES:

**Views, scenery, beauty
Peace, remoteness & solitude**

Sheltered beaches and safe coast

Unmodified, absence of structures

Open space, grassland

Variety of landscapes

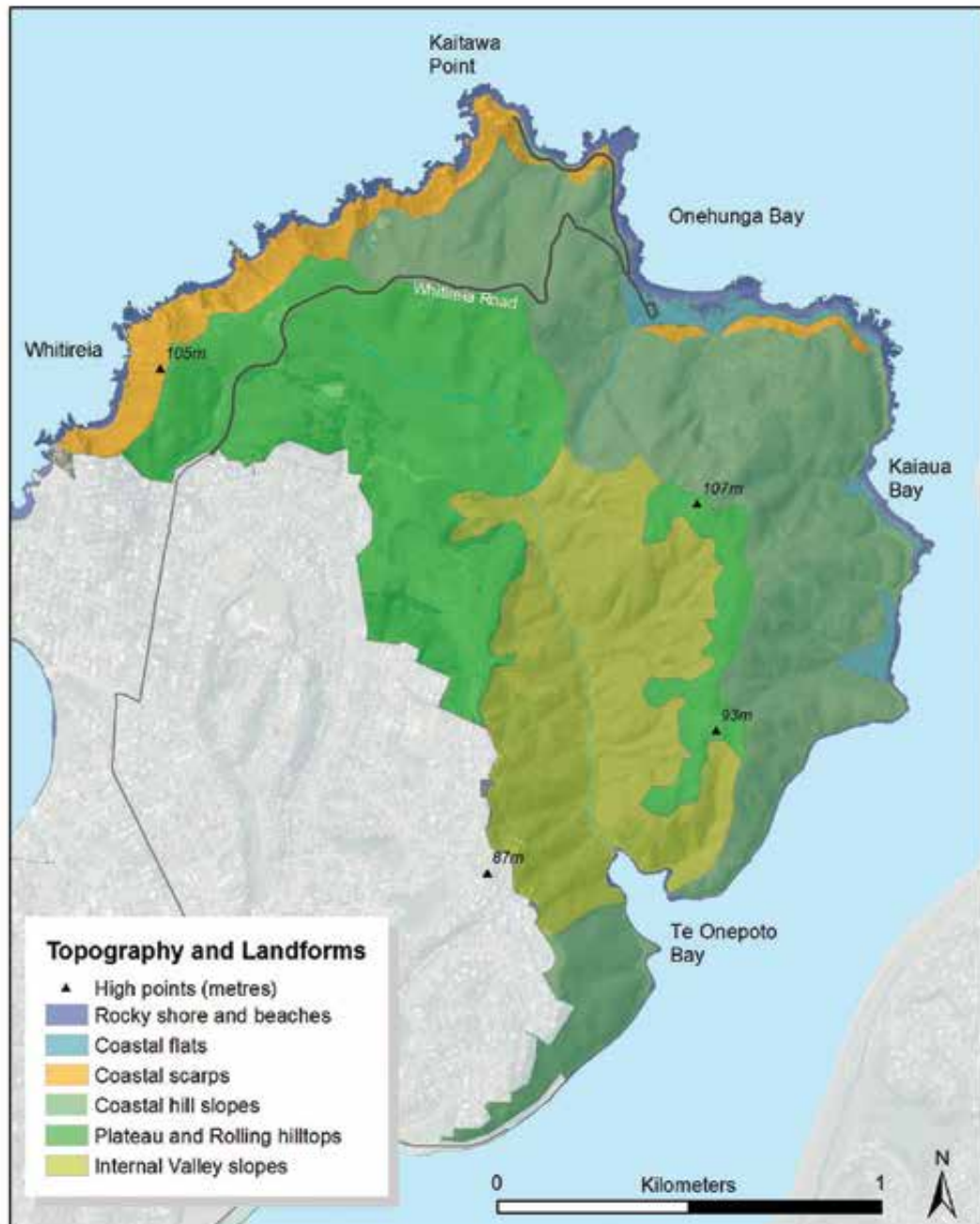
RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES:

**Good, quality tracks
Variety of routes available**

Dog walking opportunities

Ideal spot for chosen recreational activity

Safe environment for kids



Map 4: Park topography and landforms

climate over the past few hundred thousand years (Map 4: Park topography and landforms).

Uplift from the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake elevated the whole Wellington Peninsula including this area. The Porirua area uplifted about 1.3 metres and exposed a strip of rocky shore and beaches along much of the coast. It is particularly evident as the coastal rocky platforms along the north western coastal edge of the park. It also created low raised beaches between Kaitawa Point (also known as South Head) and Te Onepoto

Bay and marshes in Pauatahanui Inlet and at Te Onepoto Bay. Older beaches, 3.5 to 4.5m above sea level, probably record uplift by earlier earthquakes. The coastal flats slope towards the coastline and appear to be alluvial fans that built up behind beaches. At Onehunga Bay, the stream has cut down into its fan as periodic uplift occurred.

The contrast in shoreline character between north western and south eastern coastlines of the park is striking. On the north western side high energy



The exposed nature of the park makes it popular for wind related activities such as hang gliding, paragliding and flying model aircraft and UAVs when the right wind conditions prevail

seas continually cut away at the coastline eroding the land more rapidly than the ongoing uplift creating high coastal scarps. The erosive power of the sea declines eastward into the harbour and the scarps become lower with uplifted beach remnants on the hill slopes.

During the last glacial period sea levels were nearly 100m below those of today and the Porirua coastline was much further west. An ancestral “Porirua River”, with Paremata and Pauatahanui tributaries, would have flowed past the hills that now form Whitireia Peninsula and out to the distant coast. The post-glacial rise in sea level formed the present coastline around 5,500 years ago. Te Awarua-o-Porirua is the remains of the drowned branched system of river valleys.

The plateau and rolling hilltops record an old landscape of rounded hills that predates the glacial periods. During these periods, large amounts of dust were blown from the exposed dry land to the west thickly coating the older surfaces of the peninsula with loess. Much of the north and western coastal hill slopes also have some cover of loess. The relatively steep internal valley slopes and the eastern facing of the coastal hill slopes have very little loess. This is probably because erosion by streams flowing down to the lower level of the glacial period river valley floor, prevented loess accumulating.

Geology

The bedrock of Te Onepoto Peninsula is a combination of greywacke, a hard sedimentary rock derived from sand, and argillite, a softer sedimentary rock derived from silt. These have been elevated over time, and folded, forming the alternating strata of argillite and greywacke which can be seen today. The Ohariu/Owhariu-Gibbs fault runs along the south arm of Te Awarua-o-Porirua and extends northwards (as illustrated in Map 5).

Soils

The loess cover on the Whitireia Peninsula has weathered to form an inter-grade between yellow-grey earths and yellow-brown earths. The soils include Paremata hill soils and Porirua silt loams. The former, which extend around the coastal escarpment and are found on the rounded ridges and hill slopes, are derived from loess and weathered greywacke, overlying greywacke bedrock. Paremata hill soils are moderately well drained and subject to moderate to high erosion, particularly wind and sheet erosion due to a lack of vegetation.

Porirua silt loams occur at the head of the central valley, around the Radio NZ installations. These soils are derived from heavily weathered loess and are poorly drained compared with the predominant soil type. Their erosion potential is low. Both soils are of low to medium natural fertility and are potentially unstable under heavy use, particularly on steeper slopes.

Along the western coastal escarpment are terawhiti stepland soils.

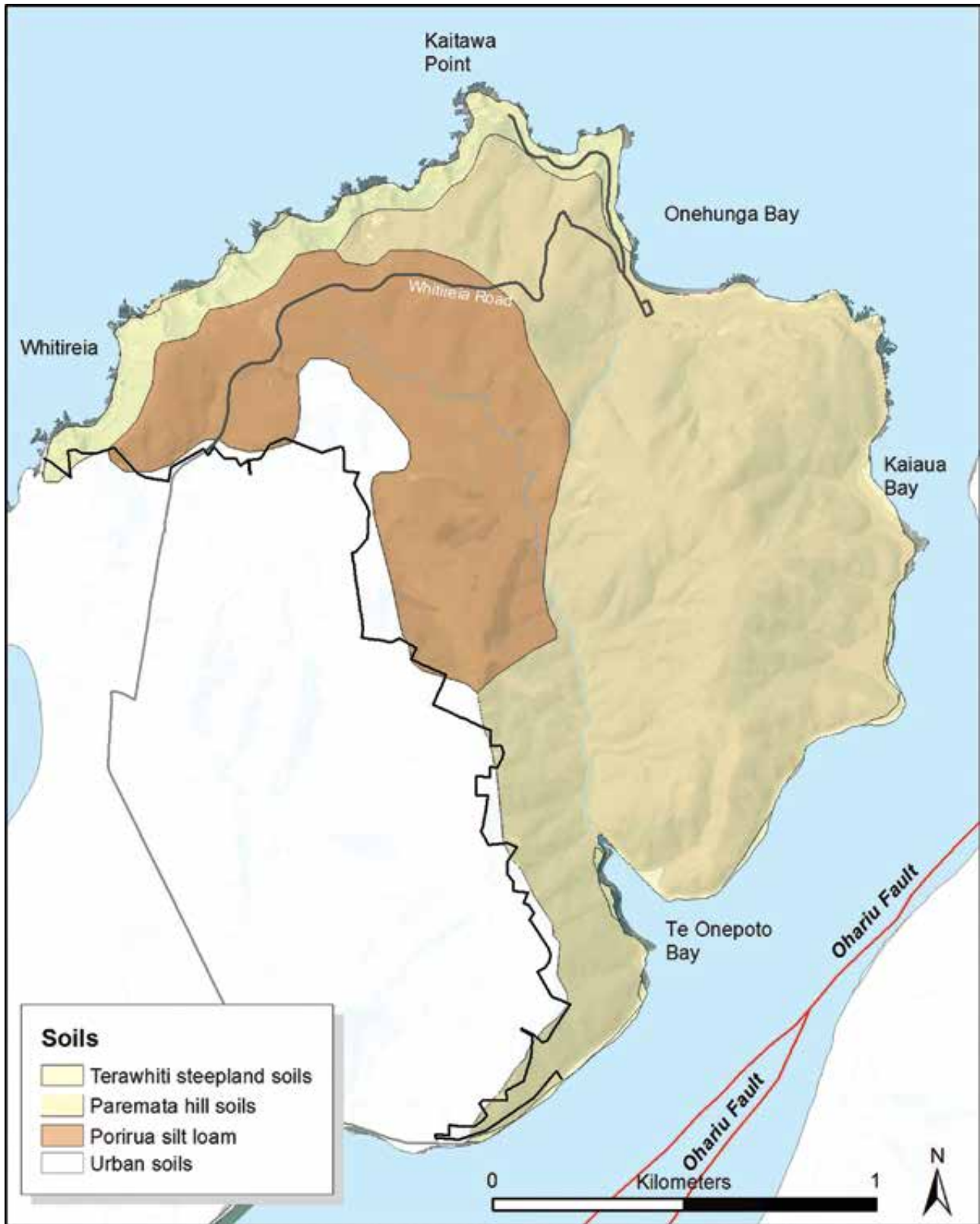
Ecological Context and management

Whitireia Park is located within the Wellington Ecological Region but has elements that are representative of both the Cook Strait and Wellington Ecological Districts.²² The park has the potential to provide important linkages to indigenous habitat in the surrounding area through its proximity to Mana Island to the west and as part of a sequence of coastal and forest vegetation from Karori to Kapiti Island.²³

The park contains some of the best remaining national and regional examples of coastal ecosystems, including coastal cliffs, escarpments, rocky shore, dunelands, wetlands and coastal forest. Map 6 shows the various vegetation types present in the park. Much of this land and the ecosystems within have been included in Greater Wellington Regional Council’s (GWRC) Key Native Ecosystems Programme that prioritises sites with the highest biodiversity values. The Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Whitireia Coast 2014-2017 is an operational plan that supports the objectives and values outlined in this management

²² The Whitireia Key Native Ecosystem Plan (2014-2017).

²³ P A Handford and Associates, Whitireia Sustainable Land Use Plan, 2 May 2012.

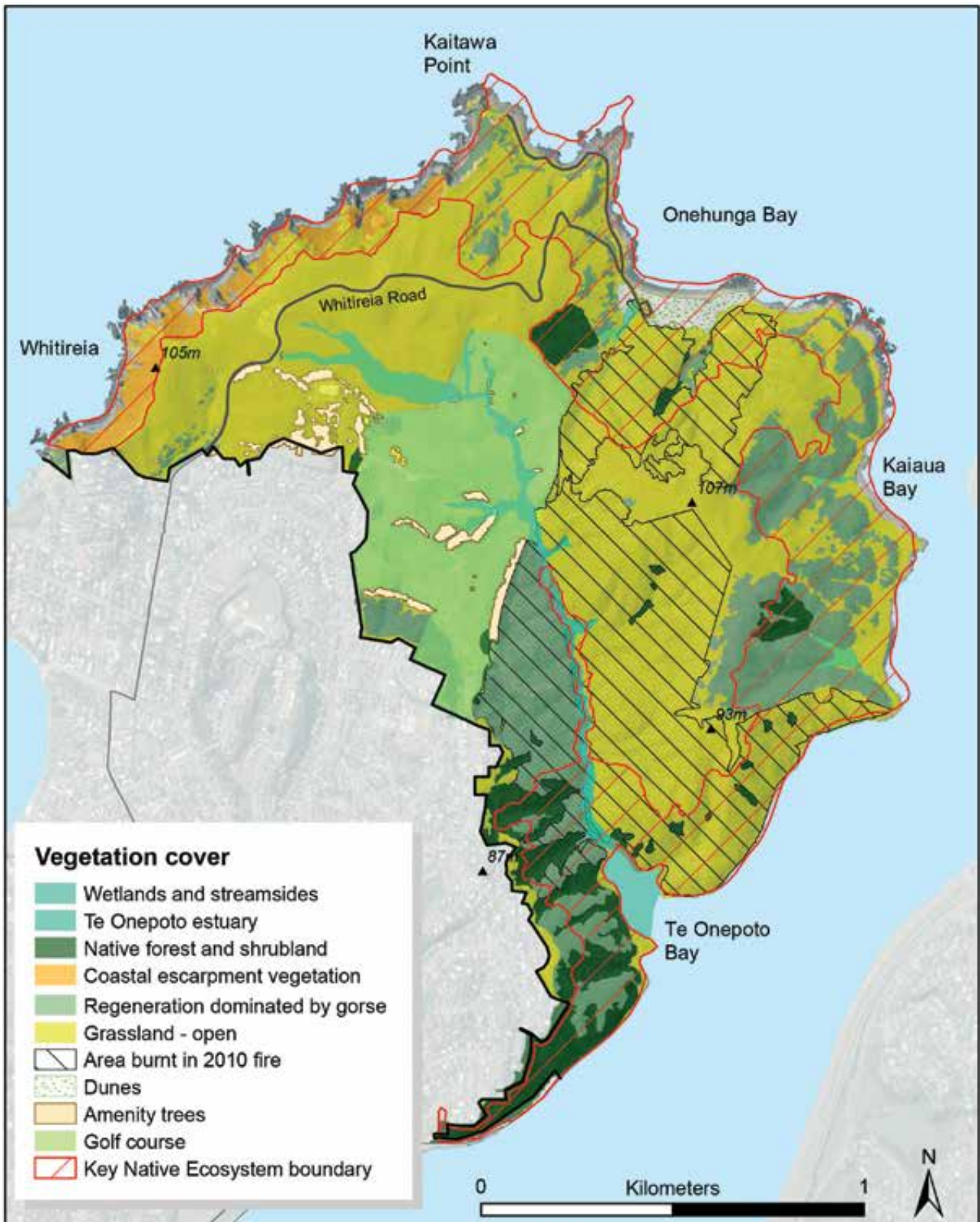


Map 5: Active fault lines and soils map

plan, prescribes actions for the ongoing management and protection of these values, and allocates GWRC funds. The current focus area for the Key Native Ecosystem Plan is shown on Map 6.²⁴

During 2010, a major fire swept through the park from Onehunga Bay south to Te Onepoto Bay/ Gloaming Hill area. The golf course, neighbouring residential areas and a small remnant of mixed broadleaf coastal forest behind Onehunga Bay were spared. However, those areas clad with gorse and in the early stage of native regeneration were burnt. The fire left in its wake bare ground for recolonisation by gorse and other opportunistic

²⁴ The Whitireia Key Native Ecosystem Plan is reviewed and updated every three years and will evolve to reflect the aspirations of this management plan.



Map 6: Vegetation cover by type at Whitireia Park

species. Ongoing weed control in these areas have since been a key focus of park management and research.²⁵

²⁵ In areas previously grazed, native vegetation has started to naturally regenerate and recover, however assistance is required where no local seed source remains or grass is too thick to allow germination of seed. A low-cost restoration trial started in 2012, in a burnt patch of Onepoto Valley. A variety of methods to introduce native seeds or seedlings have been trialled and the results (due 2015) will inform future plantings, especially mass plantings in hard to access parts of the park.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, waterways and wetlands

Te Awarua-o-Porirua is the largest estuary system in the lower North Island. It is a nationally significant wildlife area with high cultural, recreational, economic and ecological value. It is a significant nursery for fish, hosts a range of coastal and wetland birds and has one of the largest cockle concentrations in New Zealand.²⁶ Sadly,

²⁶ Findings are from a recent cockle count undertaken as part of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour Catchment and Management Programme.



Wetland at Onehunga Bay, planted with native species

urban expansion, stormwater/sewer infrastructure, forestry, rural intensification and roading have all negatively affected the harbour ecology.

The health and sustainability of Te Awarua-o-Porirua and the natural environment is a matter of vital importance to Ngāti Toa Rangatira, for whom it was a traditional food, plant and recreation resource. Guided by the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy (2015), Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Greater Wellington Regional Council are working with Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and other agencies to reduce sediment rates, reduce pollutant inputs and restore the ecological health of the harbour.

The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee was formed in 2015 and is responsible for developing a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) that will outline regulatory and non-regulatory proposals for integrated land and water management within the harbour and catchment which will be considered for incorporation into the GWRC Natural Resources Plan. The committee is comprised of members representing a range of groups and interests, including Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Whitireia Park occupies a significant part of the harbour's western shoreline and the bulk of the park drains into the harbour. Te Onepoto Stream was the least modified stream flowing into the Onepoto arm of the harbour until 2010 when fire destroyed many woody species which provided shade for the stream, and created challenges for restoration activities. At its headwaters is the golf course and degraded wetlands. It then flows through shaded sections into a small estuary at

Te Onepoto Bay in the east.²⁷ Other streams in the park drain north to Onehunga Bay or east directly to the harbour.

Te Onepoto Stream and associated upper catchment wetlands present an opportunity to restore a full riparian sequence from terrestrial freshwater wetlands to a coastal estuary. The end of grazing has allowed native wetland plant species to regenerate throughout the park.

Other wetland areas within the park (refer Map 6) have been planted with native species or are identified for restoration and this will increase availability of habitat for indigenous species and assist with filtering run-off from the surrounding park landscape.

Biodiversity: Flora

Native forest and shrubland

The native coastal forest remnant at Onehunga Bay is one of few in the region within 100m of the ocean and is home to a representative collection of native species. Predominant forest cover is titoki, kohekohe and ngaio and the non-local native karaka. This area is also home to the locally rare *Blechnum Parrisiae*.

Vegetation on the southern escarpment functions as a part of Te Onepoto Stream catchment and defines the park from the residential area and is dominated by Mahoe, with karo and hawthorn weed species. The seeps and gullies, and their hydrology, in the head waters of the Te Onepoto Stream are classified as "uncommon ecosystems" (by Landcare Research) and have a threat status of "Nationally endangered" requiring protection.

²⁷ P A Handford and Associates, Whitireia Sustainable Land Use Plan, 2 May 2012.

Vegetation here is less influenced by salt than in the west and comprises a mix of coastal forest and scrub dominated by mahoe. It is likely to return to coastal lowland forest dominated by kohekohe. The management focus in this southern forest since the fire has been to eliminate weed species to allow for native coastal plants to dominate, and to plant low-flammable native species adjacent to residential properties.

Gorse is not controlled in this area due to proximity to a residential area and the difficulty of using alternative methods to aerial application. Where gorse is acting as a nursery in some gullies in the eastern escarpment, it is expected that these areas will return to mature native forest in time. Species richness is often lower in gorse, particularly for small-leaved shrubs and it has fewer orchids. Although gorse leads to native forest, it will be different forest from that developed through kanuka. Pockets of regenerating native scrub, mainly to manuka or tauhinu, are present across the park.

Coastal escarpment vegetation

The park contains important coastal escarpment vegetation. The most diverse scrub is on the wind swept coastal cliffs facing the Cook Strait. Manuka, mingimingi, tauhinu, silver tussock, taupata, Coprosma propinqua, wharaariki, thick-leaved mahoe (nationally vulnerable), native ice plant, beach spinach are common species present. The tiny creeping button daisy *Leptinella nana* (nationally critical) occurs on the cliffs, being one of only three known populations in New Zealand. The shrub *Hebe elliptica* (status vulnerable) occurs here. The only other known populations in the region are on Kapiti and Mana Islands.²⁸

Small cushion and ground cover plants such as *Raoulia hookeri* and *Pimelea prostrata*, which are vulnerable to trampling, exist amongst the rocky shoreline at Kaitawa Point westwards.

Dunes

Whitireia Park contains the best example of dunelands in Porirua. Restoration efforts have seen key native sand-binding species, pīngao and spinifex, re-established in the dunelands. Sand coprosma, sea spurge (both threatened species) and sand daphne have been re-introduced to backdune areas at Onehunga and Kaiua Bay as part of a nation-wide back dune restoration trial.

Estuary

Te Onepoto estuary hosts salt marsh, an important habitat for wading birds. This habitat also supports well established communities of native sea rush, and oioi occupy the salty edge, then wiwi, machaerina, juncea, carex flagellifera and raupo.

Grassland

A large portion of the park, from Thornley St through to Onehunga Bay has been grazed in the past and remains in pasture. Rough grass also dominates areas that were burnt in 2010 and on the open ridgelines in the east of the park where gorse is controlled. Some natural revegetation is occurring in the grasslands.

Amenity plantings

Managed amenity plantings of both exotic and non-local native species are present at Onehunga Bay carpark and the Titahi Bay Golf Course. These include macrocarpa and pohutukawa. Pines are self-seeding in some areas.

Biodiversity: Fauna

Birds

The coastal escarpment and foreshore of Whitireia Park provides habitat for a range of native coastal birds, some of which are nationally threatened. Black-backed gulls nest in loose colonies on the steep slopes of the coastal escarpment and variable oystercatchers on the foreshore, just above the high-tide mark. The rocky intertidal zone provides foraging and roosting habitat for species such as the red-billed gull, white-fronted tern, Caspian tern, black shag, little shag, pied shag and white-faced heron. The small area of intertidal mudflats at the Te Onepoto Estuary provides foraging habitat for pied stilts, kingfisher, bar-tailed godwit, banded dotterel as well as the occasional visiting royal spoonbill, variable and pied oystercatchers and white heron. Australasian gannets, caspian terns and fluttering shearwaters can often be observed feeding or roosting in the coastal waters adjacent to the park.

The bird communities of the grassland and short-stature shrubland habitats in the park are dominated by introduced species such as blackbird, song thrush, goldfinch, greenfinch, yellowhammer and skylark. Among the few native species present in these habitats are New Zealand pipit (conservation status declining), paradise shelduck, pukeko, welcome swallow and spur-winged plover. At the Onehunga Bay carpark, large communal house sparrow nests can be found constructed in the canopies of the pohutukawa trees planted there for amenity purposes.

The remaining areas of native forest and taller shrubland still present in the park support populations of some of Wellington's more common native forest bird species, including silvereye, fantail, grey warbler and tui.²⁹

²⁸ P A Handford, Whitireia Park Weed Survey Plan, 2007 and P A Handford and Associates, Whitireia Sustainable Land Use Plan, 2 May 2012 and GWRC, The Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Whitireia Coast (2014-2017).

²⁹ McArthur N. and Lawson J. 2013. Coastal and freshwater sites of significance for indigenous birds in the Wellington Region. Greater Wellington Regional Council, Publication No. GW/ESCI-T-14/67, Wellington; New Zealand eBird database: <http://ebird.org/content/newzealand/> (accessed 21st April, 2015).



Ongoing habitat restoration plantings take place throughout the park by the Whitireia Restoration Group and other volunteers

Lizards and invertebrates

The western coastal escarpment stretching from Rocky Bay to Kaitawa Point is high-value lizard habitat. Its rocky shore, scree areas, cliffs, driftwood and native vegetation provide protection from introduced mammalian predators. Recent surveys of lizards in this part of the park have located three species typical of the Wellington coastline: raukawa geckos, copper skinks and northern grass skinks.³⁰

The lack of species diversity present today is likely due to habitat clearance and the effects of introduced predatory mammals (the mice, rats, cats, mustelids and hedgehogs), the biggest obstacle for lizard conservation. Protection of the valued coastal habitat, enhancement of inland native bush habitat and managed suppression of rank grass (abundance of pastoral seed increases mammalian pests) would support the return of lizard populations to the park.³¹

There is little known of invertebrates within the park other than coastal sightings of the indigenous common copper and little blue butterflies.

Fish

Te Onepoto estuary and stream provide habitat for native fish including longfin and shortfin eels, inanga and banded kōkopu.³² Longfin eel and inanga are classified as 'Declining'.

Efforts to enhance intertidal spawning grounds and habitat for indigenous fish by increasing

wetland plant diversity in the lower reaches of Te Onepoto stream estuary are being implemented as part of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour collaborative restoration project.³³

Restoration

Restoration provides opportunities to be involved, learn about and promote awareness within the community of the ecological and cultural values of the reserve. While planned work for Whitireia is generally carried out by Regional Council staff and volunteers, community groups, lessees and landowners can all usefully contribute to achievement of the moemoeā (vision) and objectives in this plan.

Whitireia Park Restoration Group (WPRG), formerly Onehunga Bay Restoration Group, have been working to restore biodiversity in the park for the past nine years through restoration plantings and the maintenance of predator traps across the park. Whitireia Park Restoration Group also facilitates participation by the community and corporate groups and has successfully applied for funds and research grants.

Early restoration planting focused on linking these forest remnants to the sea through the wetlands, then to coastal dunes. WPRG has also restored the dunes at Onehunga and Kaiava Bays and is working on lizard habitat protection and enhancement on the western escarpment.

Recent restoration efforts have focused on the Onehunga Bay wetland, Te Onepoto Bay estuary, planting of back dunes and wetlands in Kaiava Bay, extension of the Onehunga remnant bush block, and cluster plantings on the western escarpment to provide seed source and to reintroduce regionally rare species.³⁴ The restoration group also organised the lizard survey and the construction and placement of penguin nesting boxes.³⁵

Threats

The main sources of threat to biodiversity values are:

1. Ecological weeds and pest animals (both browsers and predators); and
2. Activities undertaken by humans including: dumping of garden waste, lighting fires and undertaking recreation in sensitive areas.

Weeds

Weeds displace and out-compete native plants and alter the natural composition of ecosystems. A range of weed species are present in the park with gorse, pampas, boneseed, boxthorn and ragwort being abundant. The primary focus of

30 Rachel Innes, Sarah Herbert & Trent Bell, EcoGecko Consultants Ltd, Wellington (2014). 'Lizard Survey of Whitireia Park'. Report prepared for the Whitireia Park Restoration Group and Romijn, R (2011). 'Lizard Fauna of Baring Head and Whitireia Park'. Technical report. GWRC.

31 *ibid*, p. 2.

32 GWRC, The Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Whitireia Coast (2014-2017) pg 4

33 Details of which are appended to the GWRC, The Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Whitireia Coast (2014-2017).

34 Whitireia Park Restoration Group report to the Whitireia Park Board, November 2014.

35 Whitireia Park Restoration Group report to the Whitireia Park Board, November 2013.

weed control is to protect high value ecosystems and to target major weed species to assist native regeneration and restoration efforts and reduce the risk of large scale fire.³⁶ In particular, gorse is unattractive for recreation, poses a risk to sensitive ecosystems, impedes restoration planting efforts and creates a high fire risk.³⁷ The gorse control regime is ongoing and includes a mixture of aerial or land based application of herbicides to target large dense areas of gorse or areas where natural regeneration needs a helping hand. Private gardens can also be a weed source, whether it is dumped garden rubbish or plants growing across park borders.

Pest animals

Indigenous habitats are threatened by pest animals such as mice browsing on foliage and seeds and the likely predation of birds, lizards, eggs and invertebrates. Pest animal control is carried out in the park to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity. Possums and hares were eradicated from the park in 2003. Hares are unlikely to reoccur but, because possums can travel large distances, they will always be a threat. If possum control programmes to the south continue, this risk is minimised. A sparse network of bait stations and traps is maintained across the park to target immigrating possums, mustelids, hedgehogs and rats and three monthly night searches for pest animals are carried out. Rabbits however, are present in the park and cause significant damage to native seedlings and restoration planting and require ongoing control.

Fire risk and recreation

Fire poses a threat to life and has the ability to severely damage large sections of the park as evidenced by the two major fires in the park over the last 20 years. The Park Board, as property managers, are required (under Section 183 of the Local Government Act) to manage the risk of fire to an acceptable level.

The park is on an urban boundary and over 150 homes immediately abut the park. The high and unpredictable winds at Whitireia mean that a grass fueled fire could travel quickly across the park within an hour, given a steady wind. The main factors that determine fire risk at Whitireia are:

- A fire source: whether it is a tossed cigarette, spark from a machine or barbeque or a lit fire
- Climatic conditions: particularly wind and moisture levels (which can be extreme and unpredictable) helps a fire to spread

- Vegetation: some native species are not highly flammable whereas gorse or dry rank grass provides more fuel to a fire than short green grass
- Location: if a fire has been started in a location that is difficult to access, it is less controllable, if it is close to people and housing the risk to lives and property is increased.

With this in mind, the Board must maintain a prudent approach to fire. The approach adopted by the Board for this draft plan is a multi-prong approach aimed at reducing the fire risk to an acceptable level and maintaining this over time.

1. Adopting a no fires allowed policy for the park. This means a no-tolerance approach to any type of open fire or barbeque (other than gas) on the park.
2. Progressively spraying gorse (which is highly flammable) in areas of high risk, such as along the coast line.
3. Planting of low-flammable native species in the Gloaming Hill area to improve the green vegetative buffer. Previous fires illustrated that where native vegetation was present, this inhibited the spread of fire.
4. Strategic mowing of tracks and road sides, including alongside Thornley Street where this will inhibit the spread of fire toward houses in the area.
5. Hay making in the western hill tops of the park where machinery can easily access (thus reducing the fuel loading associated with rank grass).
6. Constraining vehicle access along the coast, particularly to beaches with driftwood. This management plan proposes a gate be installed on the road below Kaitawa Pou that can be locked when fire risk is high. The gate would still allow emergency and key holders access (eg, for organized events/groups) but will effectively reduce vehicle access to the beaches beyond Kaitawa Point, below Kaitawa Pou, with walkway and cycling access maintained.
7. Inform and educate visitors about fire risks and impacts via a range of method and media.

Information supplied from the NZ Fire Service on reported fire calls at Whitireia Park, showed that the areas with the greatest potential as ignition sources are the main entry road, coastal zone and carpark areas, i.e. the main access route and main areas of recreational activity.

Threat from recreational activities

Recreational uses such as motorised vehicles and trail bikes have in the past caused considerable damage to ecologically (and culturally) sensitive areas within the park. Since Greater Wellington Regional Council took an active role in management of the park, deterrence measures and enforcement efforts have seen a decrease in non-permitted activities and vehicle use contained to permitted areas.

³⁶ The Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Whitireia Coast (2014-2017), Draft Whitireia Park Sustainable Land Use Plan 2012 and the Whitireia Pest Plant Control Plan (2007-2012) provide direction for weed management in the park.

³⁷ Handford, P. A. Gorse Control on Burnt Areas Whitireia Park, (2010). Prepared for GWRC to outline a plan for gorse control on burnt areas, September 2010.

Other activities permitted in the park, such as rock climbing, paragliding and dogs off leads, still require precautions to ensure that their environmental impact is minimised. This is particularly important at Whitireia where the most valuable biodiversity is in the same coastal areas that are popular for recreation.

Climate Change and sea level rise

While not a major threat to the park, changing climate and rising sea level is forecast to impact the Te Awarua-o-Porirua and its catchment system. A sea-level rise of 1.95mm/year since 1930 has been established for the harbour and this is likely to increase, consistent with national and global trends. A predicted increase in the magnitude and frequency of rain events for western New Zealand will potentially increase erosion and terrestrial sediment runoff in the area and these further compound the impacts of sea level rise.³⁸

Continued vegetation restoration, including riparian plantings and ensuring future land use and park development don't negatively impact soil stability, will increase resilience to climate change and reduce sediment load from the park to the harbour.

³⁸ Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action plan (2012), pg. 9.



Walking, bike riding and snorkelling activities are popular in the park

A photograph of a woman and a young girl on a rocky beach. The woman is crouching behind the girl, and both are smiling. The background shows a rocky coastline with waves crashing against the rocks, and a hazy, sunset sky. The scene is captured in warm, golden light.

3: Objectives, Policies and actions

The policies in this section guide the general day to day management in the park. These have been grouped under nine objectives, each of which contributes to achieving the moemoeā (vision) of the plan. The objectives are able to be measured and reported on over time to ensure that that plan is being implemented, and the moemoeā achieved. At the end of each section of policies are the relevant 'actions' that will be undertaken in the park. These are actions already identified through the development of the management plan as being necessary for achieving the objectives. These are grouped under four headings:

- Business as usual: these are ongoing activities that are part of the day to day of the park.
- Immediate priority: these are actions that will be the focus of the next three years in the operational work programme. They generally already have funding allocated, or should be prioritised as resources becomes available. These actions are shown visually on Map 7, shown at the end of this section (page 56)
- Medium term priorities: these are actions that will be the focus over the remainder of the life of the plan (years 4 to 10). In some cases they are contingent on immediate priorities being completed first.
- Long term priorities: are actions or activities that may not be delivered in the next 10 years but remain aspirations of the Park Board.

Moemoeā (1st strand):

To increase environmental resilience by restoring and linking ecosystems and managing open space.
(ANCHOR)

OBJECTIVE 1: An improvement of native habitats through regeneration, active restoration and building green connections.

Policy 1: Protect significant indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity based on an assessment of:

- a) Representativeness (regionally or nationally) rarity or vulnerability
- b) The current or potential degree of threat.

Policy 2: Favour natural regeneration of modified or degraded native ecosystems where they are likely to regenerate without active intervention, i.e. where there is a local seed source and the ecosystem has the capacity to restore itself.

Policy 3: Enhance or restore (using plants sourced from the Wellington or Cook Strait ecological district) areas that:

- a) Have the potential to be significant areas of indigenous vegetation or are significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- b) Will increase resilience, or prevent the isolation

or fragmentation of the ecosystem within the park and to adjacent areas of ecological value

- c) Have special features such as unique species, geological features or cultural or spiritual values that make the area specifically valuable
- d) Are free of archaeological sites.

Policy 4: Allow the return of native fauna where:

- a) The species have previously been recorded or there is evidence of the species being present in the area
- b) Conditions can be controlled to provide a high chance of their re-establishment in the area
- c) Appropriate translocation approval and permits have been obtained from the Department of Conservation and Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- d) Best practice is followed for the release and post-release monitoring.

Policy 5: Focus environmental enhancement and restoration projects outside the Key Native Ecosystem boundary (refer to Map 6) when:

- a) there is likely to be a significant involvement by the community through volunteering
- b) it is necessary to mitigate the environmental effects of a development
- c) there is Ngāti Toa Rangatira support for planting species for cultural purposes (eg, medicinal use, weaving)
- d) There is no threat to archaeological sites.

Policy 6: Give primacy to planning and replanting indigenous vegetation over introduced plants.

Policy 7: Plant introduced plants or non-local native species only where:

- a) They have a specific purpose (eg, nitrogen fixing, soil stabilisation, shade, amenity value); and
- b) They pose a low threat to the indigenous ecosystem
- c) The area is not a key native ecosystem (KNE)
- d) No appropriate endemic species achieves desired outcomes.

Policy 8: Remove introduced plants for ecological purposes, except when they:

- a) Have a high amenity value
- b) Are of historical or cultural significance
- c) Are acting as a nursery species for native species regeneration
- d) Provide another important function such as erosion control or protection of heritage features.

Policy 9: Reduce the impact of people on the fragile coastal environs through education, controlling access and providing hubs for visitor interaction away from the immediate coastline.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 1:

An improvement of native habitats through regeneration, active restoration and building green connections.

Business as usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue restoration of vegetation on coastal dunes and terraces. b) Use buffer and node plantings to enhance remnant forest and provide seed source. c) Provide and monitor penguin nesting boxes. d) Monitoring of birds and lizards. e) Protect and enhance habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species (including Leptinella Nana (Nationally Critical Status) throughout the park.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Protect escarpment communities and threatened plants through the Key Native Ecosystem programme and with fencing if such protection is necessary and practicable.
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Establish restoration planting that connects Onehunga Bay forest remnant and Onepoto Stream with vegetation corridors. h) Restore riparian vegetation sequences from terrestrial to freshwater to estuarine environments for Te Onepoto Stream and other waterways draining to the harbour. i) Assist natural regeneration in gullies by introducing seed sources and suppressing rank grass. j) Establish ongoing outcome monitoring and indicative timeframes for restoration activities.
Long term opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Reintroduce species from Mana Island back to Whitireia Park when conditions can be controlled to provide a high chance of their re-establishment.

OBJECTIVE 2: Pest plants and animals are reduced to result in measureable ecosystem improvements

Policy 10: Actively control pest plants and pest animals listed in Table 2 to assist the recovery of indigenous ecosystems and sustain their life-supporting capacity.

Table 2: 2016-2026 list of target pest plant and animal species

Pest Plant	Type of control	Pest Animal	Type of control
Kikuyu grass, marram, tall fescue and blackberry,	Gun and hose spray	Possums, cats	Service bait stations Periodic spotlight checks
Boneseed, boxthorn, broom, brush wattle, Spanish heath, pigs ear, kikuyu grass	Gun and hose or knapsack spray, cut and treat stumps, or hand pull	Rats, mice	Service bait stations
Gorse	Gun and hose or hand spray or aerial according to accessibility/ extent	Rabbits, cats	Periodic shooting
		Mustelids i.e. weasels, stoat & ferrets, hedgehogs	Service traps

Non-Local Native Plants

Type of control

karo*, pohutukawa*, karaka*

Remove seedlings and saplings from restoration areas

* Non-local native species that adversely impact local native species. Mature trees will be maintained for amenity purposes in some locations.

Policy 11: Base pest plant and animal control programmes on the:

- a. Vulnerability and ecological value of the ecosystem under threat
- b. Nature and extent of the threat posed

- c. Distribution and size of the pest population
- d. Impact of any adverse effects of methods employed (including on non-target species and human health)
- e. Most efficient and cost effective techniques available
- f. Measured the effectiveness of each process
- g. Collaboration with adjoining property owners.

Policy 12: Take all practicable steps to prevent new pest plant and pest animal infestations by:

- a. Minimising opportunities for introduction (eg, specifying cleaning requirements for didymo during sporting events)
- b. Surveying for new infestations (including the location, nature and extent)
- c. Proactively containing and eradicating at the early stage of detection
- d. Working with adjacent landowners to eliminate plant pests and animals at the border to the park.



A mown green vegetation buffer is maintained between neighbouring houses and the reserve

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 2: Pest plants and animals are reduced to result in measureable ecosystem improvements

Business as usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue existing plant pest and animal pest control programmes in accordance with the Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 and the Whitireia Coast Key Native Ecosystem plan 2014-2017. These plans are available on the GWRC website and from GWRC offices. b. Progressively remove gorse and pampas from burnt areas and grasslands.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Work with adjacent household owners to identify, eradicate and avoid new introduction of pest plants along the park boundary.
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Remove ragwort, <i>senecio glastifolius</i>. e. Raise awareness of how to be a good neighbor of the park (eg, control of pets, reducing seaborne rubbish). f. Consider additional targeted baiting or fumigation programme to complement existing rabbit controls. g. Progressively remove gorse, pampas, boneseed, kikuyu grass and other pest plants on the eastern escarpment and slopes, unless it is maintained as a nursery species for native plant regeneration.

OBJECTIVE 3: Land management in the Onepoto catchment results in positive environmental contribution to the health of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour.

Policy 13: Minimise threats to aquatic ecosystem values by:

- a. Ensuring any works or activities in the park (such as track development) are managed to minimise the adverse effects on instream habitat including fish passage and water quality and quantity
- b. Restoring currently compromised instream and wetland habitats to encourage greater occurrence of indigenous fish, including the remediation of fish passage where required



Te Onepoto Bay and stream. Extensive native vegetation restoration planting works have taken place here

- c. Collecting information about the health of streams within the park for reporting to Te Awarua-o-Porirua's Harbour Catchment Strategy and Action Plan
- d. Increasing indigenous vegetation cover in Te Onepoto catchment to reduce sediment loss to the harbour
- e. Advocating against activities in the intertidal zone adjacent to the park that damage the natural functioning of the estuary.
- f. Support the directions of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua (catchment) Implementation Programme (WIP) as they relate to the park.

Policy 14: Prohibit mineral exploration, prospecting, quarrying and mining in the park.

Policy 15: Allow for the removal of natural materials (such as plants, animals, soil and rocks), under the following circumstances:

- a. For management purposes, subject to the relevant policies in this plan and relevant legislation, eg, Reserves Act 1977
- b. By mana whenua for customary purposes
- c. By members of the community for scientific research, cultural or social purposes, or conservation and ecological restoration projects; and
- d. Where a permit has been authorised by the Park Board or its delegated authority.



Revegetation with local-native species is an ongoing activity in the park

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 3: Land management in the Onepoto catchment results in positive environmental contribution to the health of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour.

Business as usual	a. Continue implementation of Porirua harbour collaborative project actions for Te Onepoto estuary and saltmarshes.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Survey opportunities for fish passage. c. Reinstate natural function of streams leading to Onehunga Bay and Onepoto Bay. d. Complete restoration planting of coastal wetland and dune area and assist establishment of these plants through weeding and rabbit control. e. Work in conjunction with Porirua City Council to restrict vehicle access beyond the boat sheds on Onepoto Road entrance to the park. f. Encourage dog owners to pick up their dog's poo and maintain dog poo disposal units at car parks.
Long term opportunities	g. Restore upper wetlands and riparian protection as a part of the potential golf course development subject to environmental impact assessment.

OBJECTIVE 4: Open space is managed for its recreation and amenity value, and to ensure preservation of archaeological sites. Management will give rise to an increased appreciation of the area.

Policy 16: Preserve and enhance the landscape quality of the Park by:

- a. Maintaining the naturalness and essentially undeveloped character of Whitireia headland and the features within

- b. Retaining view shafts and vistas from key locations within the park
- c. Protecting significant geological features, cultural landscapes, historic structures and archaeological settings, both recorded and unrecorded
- d. Assessing development, management and planting or revegetation proposals with reference to the likely effects on landscape values
- e. Following natural contours and landscape features and avoiding straight lines when undertaking revegetation
- f. Maintain areas of open space for recreation activities.

Table 3: Significant geological features, cultural landscapes, historic structures and archaeological settings.

Feature	Description	Location	Significance
Geological	Whitireia shore platforms and fossil worm tubes (Torlessia mackayi Bather)	Whitireia peninsula coast from Titahi Bay to Onehunga Bay	Regionally significant (Regional Plan)
Archaeological	Midden (R26/179)		Historic Place Category 2
Archaeological	Terrace sets (R26/176)		Historic Place Category 2
Archaeological	Terrace set, narrow artificial terraces descending a steep gully immediately north of radio masts, road from radio masts to beach descends along the eastern side of the terraces (R26/115)		Historic Place Category 2
Historic heritage	Radio NZ Transmission Station (Transmission Station and Shed but not the aerials)	Thornley Street	HHB021, Historic Heritage Building, Group B (PCC DP)
Archaeological Sites	The park contains pa, kāinga, burial area, middens, pits, terraces and tauranga waka (R26/106 R26/107, R26/110, R26/111, R26/113, R26/114, R26/115, R26/116, R26/117, R26/118, R26/119, R26/170, R26/171, R26/172, R26/173, R26/174, R26/175, R26/177, R26/178, R26/240, R27/48, R27/49, R27/50, R27/51, R27/52)	Throughout the park	HHS025, Historic Heritage Site (PCC DP)

Archaeological Sites

Section 2 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 defines an archaeological site as:

- a) *any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that —*
 - (i) *was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900; and*
 - (ii) *provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand;*

Evidence of archaeological sites may include burnt and fire cracked stones, charcoal, rubbish heaps including shell, bone and/or glass and crockery, ditches, banks, pits, old building foundations, artefacts of Maori and European origin or human burials and modified garden soils.

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) regulates all archaeological sites, whether recorded or not. It is unlawful to modify or destroy an archaeological site without the prior authority of Heritage New Zealand.

Policy 17: Identify and protect significant historic and cultural features (including built heritage) taking into account:

- Historic values (as they relate to themes, events or people in the past)
- Social values (sentiment, recognition)
- Mana whenua values
- Physical values (archaeological age and contribution to the heritage values of a collective or wider group of features, places or setting)
- Surroundings, rarity and representativeness.

Policy 18: Assess new proposals and additional park infrastructure to ensure that the landscape values (including views of these from within the park) are not compromised through:

- Managing the scale of development so it is appropriate to its setting
- Ensuring any tracks or access ways are constructed to minimise visual effects on landform and follow best practice in trail building
- Minimising the intrusion of any built structures on the landscape.

Policy 19: Manage historic and cultural heritage features, taking into account their significance and any potential future threats (due to such things as visitor pressures, competing land use, natural processes and information loss, impact of activities, and proposed use or works).**Policy 20: Identify cultural heritage sites that could be placed at risk by environmental restoration works and ensure planting plans are designed to protect the integrity of these sites.****Policy 21: Adhere to nationally established procedures where historic and cultural heritage features or artefacts are unearthed (refer to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014) or sites discovered during day to day park operations noting that:**

- Earthworks are likely to require a resource consent under the Porirua City District Plan
- Where work uncovers an artefact or feature, the work should cease and the Greater Wellington Accidental Discovery Protocol (2008) followed
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira are informed of any discovery of Māori artefacts in the park and their advice sought on appropriate protocols for care or repatriating artefacts.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 4: Open space is managed for its recreation and amenity value, and to ensure preservation of archaeological sites. Management will give rise to in an increased appreciation of the area.

Business as usual	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Radio New Zealand, Heritage New Zealand and Porirua City Council consents for any work involving ground disturbance. Mow tracks and picnic areas as required and practicable. Brief staff and contractors about the Accidental Discovery Protocol prior to any excavation work being carried out (in addition to the brief during the planning process).
Immediate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a conservation strategy for the known archaeological sites at Whitireia Park.
Medium term	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Include a landscape and cultural impact assessment when investigating new tracks in the park.

OBJECTIVE 5: Risks from fire and other human induced/influenced hazards to the park environment and visitors are reduced over time**Policy 22: Manage fire risk in the park to ensure public safety and support ecological restoration through:**

- The progressive removal of gorse in high risk areas
- Selecting low-flammable species for restoration plantings
- Mowing grass for hay or silage where practicable
- Long-term creation of firebreaks through low-flammable native species
- Enforcing a park-wide fire ban and allowing gas barbeques only.

Policy 23: Avoid developing permanent built structures in coastal areas by favouring dune restoration solutions over structural interference.**Policy 24: Improve the resilience of the park against the impacts of climate change through restoring ecosystems and assisting natural regeneration of the native vegetation by controlling browsing animals and weed pests (Policy links to Policies 1-3).****Policy 25: Encourage responsible behaviour and good stewardship, including but not only limited to a "leave only footprints" approach.***

*All park visitors are required to remove any rubbish they bring to or generate in the park, with the exception of depositing dog waste at designated receptacles.

Policy 26: Temporarily restrict or close access to the park, or part thereof, where:

- Wāhi tapu are discovered or rāhui has been instigated or is deemed appropriate
- There is a danger to public and/or animal health and safety

- c. Continued access will cause further environmental or cultural degradation or loss of amenity to a particular site or area
- d. An event or activity has been granted the right to restrict public access as part of its approval conditions
- e. Park operations require temporary closure including but not limited to park maintenance, pest control
- f. Restricting access is an obligation under a specific Act, such as the Biosecurity Act, Forest Rural Fire Act or the Public Health Act*
- g. The closure can significantly improve amenity of the area and effectively manage inappropriate activities

*The Radio New Zealand Broadcasting land which forms part of the Park through a lease arrangement has some sections that remain permanently closed for public access eg, the immediate area around the towers, which is an area that has a health risk if entered. Refer to Map 7.

Policy 27: Ensure that the public are adequately informed regarding closures, using signage or other media, including an explanation of reasons and the length of time an area will be closed.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 5: Risks from fire and other human induced/influenced hazards to the park environment and visitors are reduced over time

Business as usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strategic mowing of tracks and road sides, including the Thornley Street area where this will create a fire break between the park and housing. b. Where practicable, making hay and baled silage to reduce fuel loadings. c. Firebreak planting of low flammability species (green fire break). d. Information and education about fire risk through signage and other media/communication channels e. Ongoing liaison with Rural Fire authority. f. Maintain (on road) signage about road behavior. g. Continue to patrol and enforce against off road motorbikes / 4WD.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. Restrictions of vehicle access to Kaitawa Point via a locked gate during high risk fire periods or for other management purposes. Improve the carparking/turning space before the gate. i. Trialing methods to re-vegetate with native species. j. Considering additional traffic calming measures to ensure speeds are kept low.
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. Better defining and identifying passing bays within the park road to improve traffic flow and perceptions of safety.

OBJECTIVE 6: Radio New Zealand's broadcasting function is not inhibited and that new network facilities do not compromise the amenity and functioning of the park.

Policy 28: Provide for suitable recreational activities on the Radio New Zealand Broadcasting land that will not affect the functioning of the radio communicating facilities.

Policy 29: Consult with the lessor, Radio New Zealand Limited, regarding any potential, structure, earth works, the planting or removal of vegetation or cultivation of land within the area where earth straps have been laid under the surface of the land.

Policy 30: Consider applications for the development of new network utilities other than Radio New Zealand* within the park on a case by case basis according to the process set out in Section 4: 'Activity rules and process to consider new developments.'

* The major network utility operation on the park is the Radio New Zealand Broadcasting masts and associated equipment and buildings which are contained within land owned by Radio New Zealand. Radio New Zealand's operations are authorised by a designation held under the District Plan. Further authorisation is not required.

Policy 31: Consider additional utility facilities approved under Policy 30 and Section 4 will be considered where:

- a. They cannot be reasonably located outside park land;
- b. It is consistent with policies in this management plan and they are of a scale, nature, colour and intensity of use that relates to, and is integrated with, the existing landscape;
- c. It is not necessary for the protection of public safety or the security or competent operation of the activity concerned to deny public access to utilities;
- d. They are located in, or added to, an existing structure or facility and use existing access options wherever possible; and
- e. The works are of national interest.



Radio New Zealand is undertaking changes to radio masts in the park in 2015-2016 and beyond

Policy 32: Require that power cables and telephone lines can be placed underground, where practicable.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 6: Radio New Zealand's broadcasting function is not inhibited and that new network facilities do not compromise the amenity and functioning of the park.

Business as usual

- a. Avoid earth disturbance in areas where RNZ infrastructure are located, and require permission from Radio New Zealand before any activities that may disturb the earth are carried out.
- b. Mow within the Radio NZ fenced areas to reduce fire risk.

Moemoeā (2nd strand):

Encourage participation through making welcoming places to play, celebrate, contemplate and recreate. (DISCOVER)

OBJECTIVE 7: The community's awareness of the values within the park is improved and this is demonstrated through care of the environment and infrastructure.

Policy 33: Encourage and support programmes and events that attract visitors to the park, whether to learn about the environment, cultural heritage and native ecosystems or to recreate or develop conservation and outdoor skills.

Policy 34: Encourage a greater awareness of the significance of the area and the cultural heritage values and features within it through interpretation, except where the feature may be:

- a. at risk from damage or vandalism through increased knowledge or access
- b. in a particularly sensitive area such as urupā or wāhi tapu, and that public access could degrade the area physically or spiritually.

Policy 35: Deliver high quality information to the public about the environment and cultural heritage in the park and promote opportunities to:

- a. Recreate, whether as an individual, as part of a club or in an event
- b. Be involved as a volunteer
- c. Learn more about the features of the park, particularly about the rich cultural heritage nurtured by the Ngāti Toa people.

Whitireia Park Onehunga Bay



The park covers the prominent headland at the entrance to Porirua Harbour. There are commanding views from the headland to Mana Island, across Cook Strait, over the harbour entrance and around Porirua. Māori valued its strategic location and, if you look carefully, there are many signs of occupation.

PARK OPEN DAILY
8am-6pm
8am-9pm
(Daylight Saving)

What can you do here?

Walking/mountain biking tracks

There is good walking and bike riding throughout the park on the formed tracks, especially around the coastline between Onepoto Road and Kaitawa Point. You are also free to roam across the grasslands but take care near the coastal cliffs because some are very high.

Swimming

Onehunga Bay is popular with families because of its safe and sandy swimming beach. There are also lots of small rock pools on the tidal platforms to explore nearby.

Fishing

There are good opportunities for fishing around the coastline. Most people fish between Onehunga Bay and Kaitawa Point.

Kite surfing

In northwest winds, kite surfing across the entrance to Porirua Harbour is very popular. People often launch from Onehunga Bay.

Snorkelling/scuba diving

The reef around Kaitawa Point is good for snorkelling and scuba diving. The best conditions are found in a calm sea and light southerly or no wind.

Rock climbing

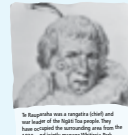
On the coastline facing out to Cook Strait there are Grade 9 to 23 climbs with cliff heights between 20m to 42m. For more information, please seek professional advice or contact alpineclub.org.nz/section/wellington.

Bird watching

Little shags, black shags, gannets and black-backed gulls are commonly seen around the coastline and harbour.



Track	Details	Walking time/distance	Walking grade	Cycling grade
Te Onepoto Loop	A loop around the coast and back inland between Onehunga Bay and Te Onepoto Bay	4.7km return 1hr 20 min	1	1
	Inland Track portion of Te Onepoto Loop Track	1.8km 35 min	1	1
	Coastal Track portion of Te Onepoto Loop Track	2.9km 45 min	1	1
Te Onepoto Loop Branch Track	Between Onepoto Road carpark and Te Onepoto Bay	1km 15 min	1	1
Maunga Whitireia Track	Between the Whitireia Road carpark and the top of Whitireia	500m 5 min	1	1
Whitireia Road	Between Thornley Street entrance and Onehunga Bay	1.8km 35 min	1	1



In Rangiwhiri was a wharangi (chief) and was called the Ngāti Toa people. They have occupied the surrounding area from the 1200s, and family names like Whitireia.



The park is a great place to walk your dog. Please remember to respect other park users.



This is a dog sculpture. It is a sculpture that was made here by Ngāti Toa. The sculpture is made of wood and is a dog sculpture. It is a dog sculpture.

Please take care of this park

- Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead. Please remove droppings.
- There are no rubbish bins. Take your rubbish home.
- Light no fires. You are welcome to use a portable gas BBQ.
- No camping allowed.
- No off-road driving of motorbikes.
- No off-road driving of motorised vehicles.
- Do not remove, disturb or damage native plants or animals.

To report suspicious or illegal fishing, phone 0800 4 POACHER (0800 4 76224)

Get involved

Whitireia Park Board
The Whitireia Park Board administers the park and is made up of representatives of Ngāti Toa Rangitira and the Greater Wellington Regional Council. The board meets quarterly to discuss and decide on park management issues. These meetings are open to the public. For dates and times see gw.govt.nz/park-board.

Wellington Model Aeroplans Club
These enthusiasts are a regular feature in the park. They keep a moen landing strip near Whitireia Road above the coastal cliffs for flying their model aeroplanes and gliders. See wmac.org.nz.

Whitireia Park Restoration Group
This is an organised group of volunteers working to protect and restore the coastal cliffs, sand dunes, streams and wetlands in Whitireia Park. Contact the Park Ranger for contact details, and future events or see naturepace.org.nz.

Tiahi Golf Club
This is the nine-hole golf course. Michael Campbell, 2005 US Open winner, started on. The entrance is at the top end of Gloomings Hill. Green fee players are welcome during the week, on most Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons. See tiahigolf.com.

Staying safe

- Always watch children near the water.
- Take extreme care when near the coastal cliffs.
- The roads in the park are narrow.
- Please be careful.
- When driving or biking be considerate and observe the 30km speed limit.
- When walking, move to the public side as vehicles approach or walk only on the grass.

For more information

There is a three-day Park Ranger service.
Park Ranger
PO Box 212
Pakākahi 5258
04 232 8625
027 223 7115
whitireia.ranger@gw.govt.nz
Wellington Regional Council's
parks department 04 526 4133
gw.govt.nz/parks



The Kaitawa Point is on the headland of the west side of Onehunga Bay. It was named by Ngāti Toa Rangitira in 2000 to mark their return to this land.



Further park information and panels revealing interesting park stories are proposed

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 7: The community's awareness of the values within the park is improved and demonstrated through care of the environment and park assets.

Business as usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide brochures and website information produced by Greater Wellington Regional Council. b. Maintain way finding signage and park information boards at Onehunga Bay and Te Onepoto entrances. c. Provide opportunities for the public to be involved in restoration plantings and beach clean up works to collect plastics, glass and other rubbish. d. Continue to run Great Outdoor Summer Events in the park. e. Work with the Whitireia Park Restoration Group as per the Memorandum of Understanding.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Collaborate with the rock climbing groups to agree and implement means of improving understanding and care of the escarpment where climbing occurs. g. Ensure that promotion of the park as a place to recreate is linked to Porirua City Council website. h. Work with Titahi Golf Club to develop educational environmental information for golf club users. i. Work with Whitireia Park Restoration Group to ensure common focus on key messages. j. Work with the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour Strategy Coordinator to advertise and undertake regular beach cleanups. k. Develop interpretation and signage that helps to build understanding on what makes this place unique (history, environment, landscape, etc).
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l. Provide online resources for children/schools regarding the environmental values within the park.

OBJECTIVE 8: Recreation and leisure activities are supported by tracks and other facilities that are in keeping with the natural and cultural setting.

Policy 36: Create a sense of welcome at key park entrances and activity hubs through landscaping, signage or other design features that relate to the Park and the history of the land.

- a. Develop a sign plan for the whole park
- b. Develop an interpretation plan for storytelling in the park

Policy 37: Provide vegetation or built structures for shade/shelter at key nodes.

Policy 38: Maintain tracks to levels defined in NZ standards with modifications for safety or management purposes as required.

Policy 39: Extend the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities by providing tracks that:

- a. Encourage walkers and cyclists to walk and ride off internal roads
- b. Focus on creating circuit trails
- c. Are shared use trails whenever possible (by two or more user groups), with attention being paid to minimising conflicts between cyclists, walkers and horse riders. This could include some single use trails if appropriate eg. down hill mountain bike route options or walkers only trails
- d. Improve existing well-utilised routes in the park
- e. Are developed in a sustainable manner following best practice in trail development.

Policy 40: Retain the sense of coastal ruggedness and a sense of freedom to wander through:

- a. Focusing the development of amenities at Onehunga Bay, Onepoto road end and the Kaitawa Pou
- b. Retaining and managing expanses of open grasslands for public recreation
- c. Keeping structures (stiles, bridges etc) on coastal tracks to a minimum
- d. Following design principles when upgrading or developing new park amenities and infrastructure (Refer to Policy 43 and 44).

Design principles

Policy 41: Concentrate intensive use and development of park facilities at existing developed areas and main park entrances Thornley Street and Onepoto Road.



All tracks in the park are currently shared and further trails to create off-road route options to Onehunga Bay and connect existing trails are proposed

Policy 42: Ensure any new park infrastructure (facilities, buildings, amenities and other structures including signage):

- a. Meets requirements under the Resource Management Act to avoid, remedy and mitigate environmental effects, including impacts on indigenous biodiversity
- b. Meets any national design standards relevant to the structure and use
- c. Fits with the moemoeā (vision) for the park
- d. Is in keeping with the setting of the park, utilising materials which reflect the natural or historical context where practicable
- e. Avoids or minimises impacts on historic and cultural heritage and wāhi taonga
- f. Where appropriate, is designed to contribute to the telling of the story of the place
- g. Takes into account the needs of people, including safety, security, disabilities and/or limited mobility
- h. Does not detract from or adversely affect the existing heritage of the area, including archaeological sites
- i. Minimises displacement of other activities and park users
- j. Has considered alternative locations and alternative means of meeting the intended purpose, including using or adapting existing infrastructure
- k. Where practical and appropriate are grouped together to minimise vegetation clearance and visual intrusion on the landscape
- l. Follows the directions of the proposed park sign plan or interpretation plan
- m. Follows New Zealand Standards, and minimises impacts on landscape, and is designed to minimise future maintenance requests.

Policy 43: Provide amenities and vehicle parking areas appropriate for the type of recreational activity and level of use by the public.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 8: Recreation and leisure activities are supported by tracks and other facilities that are in keeping with the natural and cultural setting.

<p>Business as usual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follow the GWRC accidental discovery protocol should any archaeological sites be disturbed in the course of work. b. Maintain tracks to levels defined in NZ Standards: Tracks and Outdoor Structures, retaining existing natural character wherever possible. c. Ongoing ranger patrol to reduce incidence of vandalism, graffiti and unauthorized off road activities by 4WD and motorbikes. d. Maintain toilet blocks provided at Onehunga and Onepoto (Porirua City Council). e. Improve access along tracks by reducing obstructions, especially for cyclists and children’s mountain buggies, particularly the coast track. Modify existing barriers to exclude motorbikes but not others wherever possible.
<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Provide landscaping and improved carparking at Kaitawa Pou. g. Develop picnic areas for Onehunga Bay that include planting and other measures to provide seating and shade (in consultation with current users of the area) and are also used by those with limited mobility. h. Provide an external tap at Onehunga for drinking water and rinsing off. i. Provide dog waste disposal units at Onehunga Bay carpark and Te Onepoto entrance gate. j. Develop a trail upgrade priorities plan in liason with stakeholders. Investigate the development of a track which provides an alternative route (to the road) from the cliff top car park to Onehunga Bay (traversing the edge of the golf course) and from Kaitawa Pou to Onehunga Bay. k. Investigate trails (alternative to the road) between Kaitawa Pou and the Onehunga Bay carpark. l. Investigate the development of a route that follows the eastern ridgeline (from the high point on the inland track to Te Onepoto Bay). m. Create an anchor point for kite surfers take off at Onehunga Bay and signage / other kite surfing improvements.
<p>Medium term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n. Improve existing well-utilised routes throughout the park where appropriate. o. Develop new trails to create better links, new opportunities, or to allow other trails to be closed for regeneration/erosion control. p. Consider the addition of a take-off facility for hang gliders and paragliders on the cliff tops such as hard surface for safety and environmental protection. q. Provide bench seats with backs at new points and along trails. r. Work with local rock climbing groups on safety improvements on the track to the crag. s. Develop plans for improving park entrances. t. Investigate if/how the upper carpark / storage shed foundations area can be improved/repurposed eg. marked for ball games / interpretation. u. Install orientation panel at the upper car / storage shed foundations. v. Investigate how the gradient can be improved on steep section of the northern aspect of the inland track. w. Develop and implement a shared trail users’ code. x. Develop a whole park sign plan y. Develop a whole park plan for interpretation/revealing the stories of the park
<p>Long term opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> z. Investigate alternatives for providing trails from Onehunga Bay to Kaitawa Pou. a.a. Provide a disabled toilet facility at one location within the park and consider a cold water shower.

OBJECTIVE 9: Kaitiakitanga starts with mana whenua and extends through all parts of the community.

Policy 44: Increase the visibility of Māori heritage in a way that positively engages visitors in the park through:

- a. The creation of focal points that reveal the stories of the land (eg, Kupe’s anchor stone, the Kaitawa Pou)

- b. Supporting Ngāti Toa Rangatira proposals for storytelling
- c. Events that celebrate the cultural heritage of the area.

Policy 45: Recognise Ngāti Toa Rangatira's role as kaitiaki and foster participation in management by Ngāti Toa Rangatira* through:

- a. Identifying opportunities for iwi members in developing and implementing environmental monitoring and restoration
- b. Supporting matauranga Māori education, interpretation and manāki manuhiri (hosting and/or guiding of visitors) activities in the park
- c. Fulfilling the requirements of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014.

* Ngāti Toa Rangatira is represented at a governance level. It appoints half of the members on the Park Board.

Policy 46: Maintain a positive relationship with Porirua City Council by identifying common objectives and working together to:

- a. Manage land along the park boundaries
- b. Enhance environmental values of adjacent open spaces
- c. Provide a range of complementary recreation opportunities in the Porirua Basin
- d. Improve linkages with other open spaces through trails
- e. Communicate with the community about what is happens in the park and opportunities to participate.

Policy 48: Promote and provide opportunities for mana whenua, individuals, volunteers, private sector and business to be involved in the park and support the outcomes in this plan, such as:

- a. Environmental and heritage protection and enhancement
- b. Monitoring of outcomes
- c. Recreational amenity development and maintenance
- d. Research on park issues and values
- f. Volunteering specialist knowledge for education and interpretation.

Policy 48: Encourage and support community group involvement in the Park using a variety of mechanisms such as:

- a. The Whitireia Restoration Group activities
- b. Collaboration in running events, research and other activities

Policy 49: Establish, where appropriate, formal agreements with all groups, volunteers and / or organisations who contribute to the Park in an advocacy, restoration and / or education role.

Moemoeā (3rd strand):

Build connections to the land by recreating stories about the environment and the people who lived and live here. (BELONG)

Policy 50: Promote awareness of, and respect for, Māori language and place names within the park.

Policy 51: Consider when naming areas, tracks or features, giving preference to names that reflect:

- a. Mana whenua values
- b. Natural and physical features
- c. Local history and heritage
- d. Cultural and community associations
- e. An individual or organisation that significantly contributes to the park or facility through gifting or sponsorship or personal commitment of time and energy.

Policy 52: Require approval by the Park Board for all naming or renaming within the park.

Policy 53: Allow plaques, memorials, and commemorative tree planting and structures where:

- a. The person(s)/group(s) have contributed in a significant way to the park or to the structure on which the plaque is placed;
- b. A person or community group wishes to contribute structures which are needed or beneficial in the park;
- c. It relates to significant historical, environmental or cultural events within the Park;
- d. The design and location meets the design principles outlined in Policy 43;
- e. There is support from Ngāti Toa Rangatira;
- f. There is an agreement regarding the maintenance or replacement between the Park Board and the contributing party.

Policy 54: Prohibit the spreading or burial of ashes and the burial of body parts within the park, except for:

- a. Reinterment of koiwi
- b. On land classified as Māori Reservation and set aside by Ngāti Toa Rangatira for the purposes of urupā or cemetery.

Policy 55: Grow a programme of events as well as accessible information about the park that will increase visitor appreciation of the heritage and environmental aspects.

ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 9: Kaitiakitanga starts with mana whenua and extends through all parts of the community.

Business as usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure all permits for take of natural materials have Ngāti Toa Rangatira approval. b. Maintain the Kupe’s anchor stone area.
Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Kaitawa Pou development includes interpretation that will build understanding of the connection of Ngāti Toa Rangatira to the area. d. Review environmental monitoring framework and include both scientific and cultural indicators to gain a stronger understanding of overall health and vitality of the environment.
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Develop a notice board for the promotion of Restoration Group and other conservation group activities in the park. f. Recognise significant conservation efforts via appropriate media and methods. g. Research traditional Māori names of features within the area and where appropriate indicate using signage and maps (as per Policy 52). h. Reveal Māori history of the area through various mediums (eg, tours, events, web and written documents, interpretative panels, educational resources) and wherever possible using Ngāti Toa Rangatira iwi members as key communicators or guides. i. Research and record cultural practices undertaken by Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the area with the aim of revitalizing cultural practices and Ngāti Toa Rangatira tikanga.

OBJECTIVE 10: Best practice in park management is provided.

Policy 56: Seek where appropriate, the lease, acquisition, right-of-way, caveat, disposal, purchase or gifting of land under public and private ownership within or adjacent to the Park. When considering additions or disposal of land, consider how the proposal will:

- a. Enhance the benefit, enjoyment and use of the park by the public
- b. Improve public access to or use of open space
- c. Further protect the character of the existing park
- d. Protect the important environmental and cultural heritage values
- e. Enhance or add to existing recreational opportunities
- f. Rationalise boundaries so as to achieve better linkages to other open space areas and benefit the future management of the park
- g. Enhance or add to ecological corridor opportunities
- h. Be able to be met by other needs.

Policy 57: Increase understanding of the environment and improve park management through:

- a. Information gathering, research and monitoring
- b. Incorporating Māori knowledge and values
- c. Facilitating research that might be used for management purposes.

Policy 58: Review the plan at least every 10 years, unless a review or variation is initiated by:

- a. Monitoring results that indicate the need for a change or review



There are a number of well-utilised routes to view points and other places in the park to consider for upgrading

- b. The identification of new management issues, problems or activities that are not addressed in the plan but for which policy is required
- c. Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions which may render the plan inoperable or illegal.

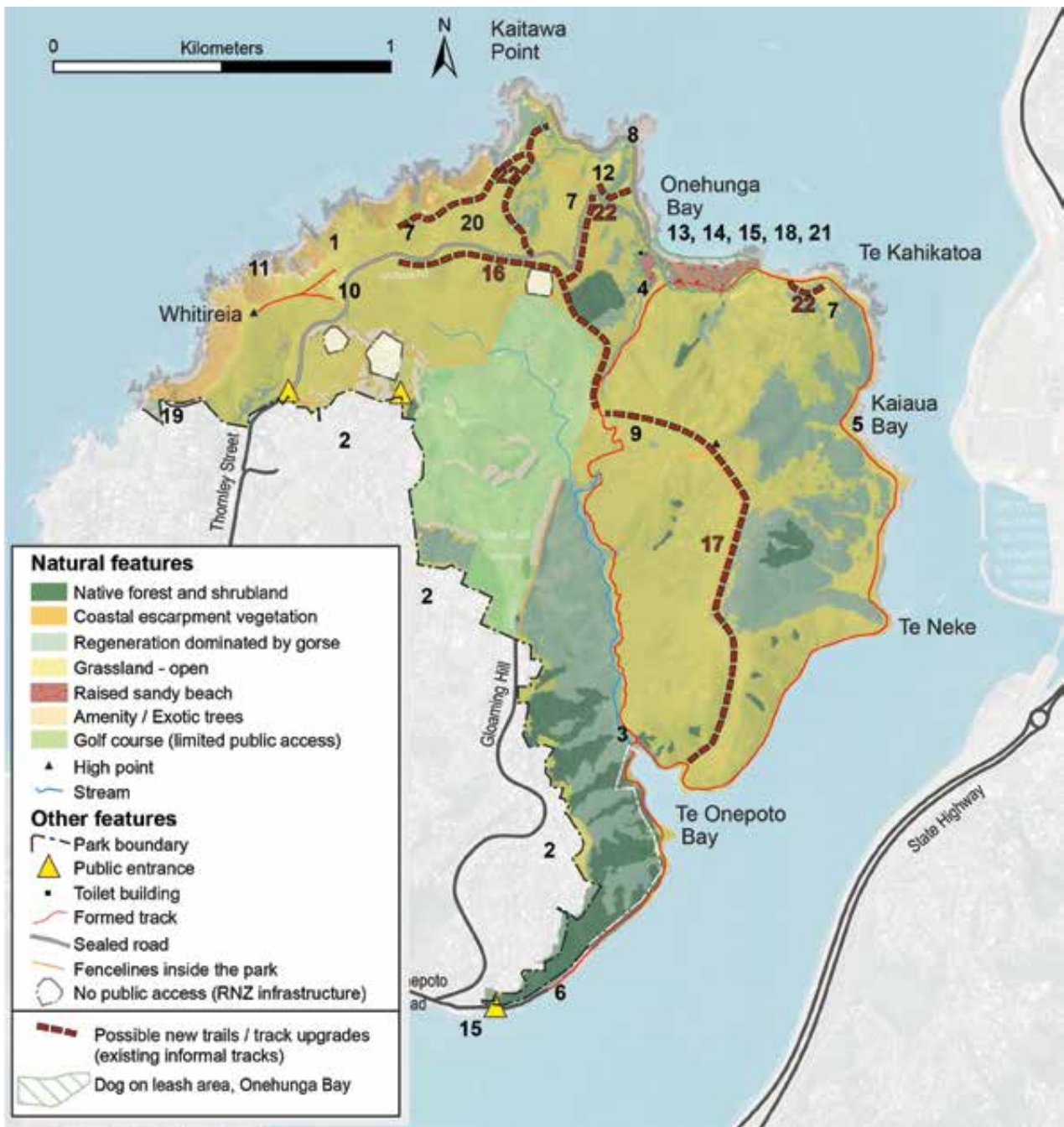
ACTIONS RELATING TO OBJECTIVE 10: Best practice in park management is provided.

Business as usual	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Board meets regularly (at least quarterly) in a public forum to hear public feedback and consider the ongoing management of the park. b. Agree to an annual work programme and follow its progress. c. Monitor visitor use of park through track counters. d. Support moves towards environmental marine protection around the Whitireia coast.
Immediate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. Work with Porirua City Council to encourage regular animal control officer visits to the park (dogs) f. Work with Porirua City Council (PCC) on finding a solution to the inappropriate use of Onepoto Road. g. Work with PCC on increasing safety and developing appropriate signage for Richard Street entrance. h. Develop an agreement with New Zealand Alpine club on the maintenance of fixed anchors and protection bolts.
Medium term	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider possible addition of adjacent open space land to Whitireia Park where appropriate j. Develop a working group of interested parties for the restoration of the Onehunga catchment.

ACTIONS IDENTIFIED ON MAP 7

1. Protect escarpment ecosystem communities and threatened plants through the Key Native Ecosystem programme and with fencing if such protection is necessary and practicable.
2. Work with adjacent household owners to identify, eradicate and avoid new introduction of pest plants along the park boundary.
3. Survey opportunities for fish passage.
4. Reinstate natural function of stream leading to Onehunga Bay by removing the small earth dam and pest plants (water lilies)
5. Complete restoration planting of coastal wetland and dune area and assist establishment of these plants through weeding and rabbit control.
6. Work in conjunction with Porirua City Council to restrict vehicle access beyond the boat sheds on Onepoto Road. Work with Porirua City Council on finding a solution to the

- inappropriate use of Onepoto Road.
7. Prepare a conservation strategy for the known archaeological sites at Whitireia Park, with a focus on the terraces.
8. Restrict vehicle access to Kaitawa Point via a locked gate below Kaitawa Point during high risk fire periods or for other management purposes. Improve the carparking/turning space before the gate.
9. Trial methods to revegetate with native species.
10. Consider additional traffic calming measures to ensure speeds are kept low.
11. Work with rock climbing groups to improve awareness of minimal impact climbing activity practice. Develop an agreement with New Zealand Alpine club for maintenance of fixed anchors and protection bolts.
12. Landscape and improve carparking at the Kaitawa Pou. Develop interpretation to reveal Ngāti Toa Rangatira stories.
13. Develop picnic areas for Onehunga Bay that includes planting and other measures to provide seating and shade and also use by those with limited mobility.
14. Provide water at Onehunga Bay picnic area.
15. Provide dog waste disposal units at Onehunga Bay carpark and Te Onepoto entrance area.
16. Investigate the development of a track which provides an alternative route (to the road) from the cliff top car park to Onehunga Bay (traversing the edge of the golf course), and from Kaitawa Pou to Onehunga Bay.
17. Investigate the development of a route that follows the eastern ridgeline (from the high point on the inland track to Te Onepoto Bay).
18. Install signs to inform and remind park visitors about dog on and off-leash areas, and that dogs must be under control at all times when off-leash in the park.
19. Work with Porirua City Council to improve safety and develop appropriate signage for the Richard Street entrance.
20. Develop park-wide plans for signs and interpretation of cultural and natural heritage stories.
21. Add sign and anchor point for kite surfers at Onehunga Bay.
22. Improve existing well-utilised routes where appropriate.



Map 7: Actions with immediate priority mapped

This map outlines actions that have an immediate priority in the plan (i.e. aim to be completed within the next three years). Note that some actions have not been included in the map where they relate to communication.

A photograph of two people walking a dog on a beach. The person on the left is wearing a white cap and a dark jacket. The person on the right is wearing sunglasses and a dark jacket. A golden retriever is on a leash between them. The background shows a beach and a residential area on a hillside under a clear sky.

4: Activity rules and the process to consider new developments

Introduction

This part of the plan outlines the constraints on recreation and non-recreation activities within the park. All activities have potential impacts on other park visitors and the environment and careful management is required to ensure that impacts are limited or mitigated in the way they are designed and carried out. Some activities can occur without permission because of their low-impact nature whereas others will need some level of permission from the park ranger, Park Board or in some cases the Department of Conservation to ensure that the health and safety aspects as well as the impacts are managed.

These rules are supported by the Whitireia Park Bylaws (Refer to Section 5). Bylaws assist the Board and its authorised officers to manage activities so that the park can be used for its intended purpose without users being subject to hazard, nuisance or activities that may adversely affect their health, safety or wellbeing. Authorised officers can enforce the bylaws through warnings and prosecutions against persons breaching the Whitireia Park Bylaws.

Each activity is identified as fitting one of the following four categories which determines what type of permission level applies and what process any activity is subject to:

- Allowed activities ✓
- Managed activities ○
- Restricted activities →
- Prohibited activities ✕

The following table provides quick reference summary of the activities and their status.

Table 4: Activities and the level of permission required

Activity	Status
Aircraft landings (excludes model aircraft/UAVs)	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Animals, excluding dogs/horses	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Ashes – burial/spreading	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Camping (including freedom camping)	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Collecting natural materials	○ Managed, refer to 4.2
Commercial activities	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Dog walking	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Events (commercial, or larger than 30 people)	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3

Activity	Status
Filming (commercial)	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Firearms	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Fires (open)	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Fireworks	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Golf	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Paragliding, hang gliding/kite surfing	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Horse riding	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Hunting	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Informal games	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Lease/licence	→ Restricted, refer to 4.3
Motorised recreation	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
Mountain biking	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Picnicking, gas bbq's	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Swimming	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Walking, tramping, running	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1
Farming/stock grazing	✕ Prohibited, refer to 4.4
UAVs/RPAS	✓ Allowed, refer to 4.1

4.1 Allowed activities:

The following activities are permitted to be undertaken by individuals or small groups, but may be subject to restrictions in order to protect park values and provide for the health, safety and well-being of visitors.

- a. Walking, running, hiking, tramping*
- b. Picnicking, gas bbqs
- c. Informal group games
- d. Swimming/diving/snorkelling
- e. Filming or photography for personal, family and non-commercial purposes
- f. Mountain biking on designated trails, and with consideration for other users*
- g. Dog walking, where responsible dog handling practices are followed**
- h. Horse riding on designated trails*
- i. Hang gliding and paragliding in designated areas
- j. UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) / remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS)***



Map 8: Activity types and areas within Whitireia Park

k. Model aircraft requiring take off and landing strip use in designated areas.

*Shared track use: All users of shared tracks should be respectful and courteous to other users. The shared trails users' code encourages friendly and safe shared trail behaviour.

** Dogs: Dogs must be under control at all times as defined in the Dog Control Act 1996 in the Park.

Designated areas are shown on Map 8.

In order to protect the park environment, the health, safety and well-being of other users and to facilitate part operations, restrictions may be placed on activities:

a. that are large in scale (over 30 people)

b. infrastructure is required (eg, any use of marquees, stages etc)

c. where a location is being used exclusively

d. where environmental conditions will mean a greater than usual impact on the land and surrounding environment.

Allowed activities are largely informal, unstructured activities that have a low impact on park values and other users and need few restrictions. However, if activities also involve the considerations above, then permission from the park ranger is required.

*** Use of UAVs/ RPAS in the reserve must be in accordance with Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand rules

UAVs/ RPAS are not permitted within 100m of Radio New Zealand radio masts or other infrastructure, or in any designated picnic area.

4.2 Managed activities:

Managed activities generally involve a specific location or use of a resource. Approval is given by way of a 'permit' which is issued by an authorised officer of the Park Board. The following activities are managed:

- a. Reservations of specific areas for groups (over 30 people)
- b. Conducting research
- c. Collection of natural materials, eg, seeds for propagation, customary harvest.

The Park Board may charge for the processing of a permit. Current charges are defined in the Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2013.

4.3 Restricted activities:

Restricted activities are those that are not specifically allowed, are not 'managed' through the issuing of permits, or are not 'prohibited' in this management plan and bylaws. These activities require a case-by-case assessment. Each application is considered on its individual merits, compatibility and appropriateness to the location. Most applications are approved by the Park Board (or a delegated authority), but some will need to be publicly notified and may require Department of Conservation, Radio New Zealand or Heritage New Zealand approval. Approval may be in the form of a concession, easement, lease or licence. Applications can be approved, subject to conditions or declined.

Restricted activities may include but are not limited to:

- Gof in leased areas (fees apply)
- New activities and developments not specified in the management plan
- The exclusive use of an area for an extended period of time eg. extension of golf course
- The development of permanent structures and buildings or uses of land
- Commercial activities (eg, filming, photography, selling food, offering equipment hire)
- New network utilities*
- Large scale events (eg, multi-sport, concerts or festivals).

* The major network utility currently on the park is the Radio New Zealand Broadcasting masts and associated equipment and buildings. This is contained within land owned by Radio New Zealand. Radio New Zealand operations are

authorised by a designation held under the District Plan.

4.3.1 Public notification:

Applications for restricted activities will be publicly notified when:

- a. The term sought exceeds 10 years
- b. The activity occurs on land held under the Reserves Act and public notification is required under that Act
- c. In the opinion of the Park Board it is in the public interest
- d. The easement would significantly affect the functioning of park land
- e. The application to construct or modify a permanent utility would significantly alter the nature, scale or intensity of the effect on the park.

4.3.2 Information required with application:

All applications are required to include on the following:

- a. A description of the proposed activity, including the preferred location, number of people involved and the duration/frequency of the activity
- b. An explanation of how the activity can contribute positively to the park and the moemoeā (vision) contained within this plan
- c. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) which includes a description of the impacts that the activity will have on the immediate and surrounding environment (including affected species), noting any proposed methods for managing these effects, including through mitigation. The size and scale of the EIA should be in proportion with the size and scale of the activity and its potential impacts
- d. An assessment that demonstrates that no other suitable location in or outside of the park, is suitable and available for the activity
- e. A statement detailing what, if any, other approvals or consents are required from other agencies
- f. Identification of any affected parties, including mana whenua, and documentation of consultation undertaken with these parties
- g. Where required, written confirmation that the applicants holds current public liability insurance policy cover and, where appropriate, fire suppression insurance
- h. Where required, a business plan for concessions, lease and licence applications for all long-term (12 month period or longer) or large scale commercial events
- i. For full concession applications, where the activity may use the road within the park, an

audited traffic management plan submitted when the event planned will:

- i. Close the road to vehicular traffic
- ii. Disrupt vehicular traffic in any way (eg, stopping or slowing traffic flow for a period of time)
- iii. Block a path/track resulting in pedestrians needing to find an alternative route around the activity or event.

4.3.3 Application timeframe

To ensure adequate timeframes for processing applications for restricted activities, the Park Board requests that applications are received as follows:

- a. One month prior to any small (less than 150 people) activity/event
- b. Two months prior to any large activity event (greater than 150 people) or concessionaire type activity
- c. A minimum of three months for any easement, licence and/or lease activity.

Applications lodged for activities which cannot comply with the timeframes will be considered but additional fees may apply. Refer to the current Greater Wellington Parks and Forests Concession Guidelines 2013 for a breakdown of application and activity fee information.

4.3.4 Decision making guidelines

Whitireia Park Board will consider the following criteria for applications for concessions, easements leases and licences:

- a. The degree to which the proposal is consistent with the moemoeā (vision) and policies for the park, including proposed actions contained within this plan
- b. Whether the proposal is consistent with the reserve classification for land which is subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and other relevant legislation, policy, bylaws, plans and strategies for the area
- c. Any effects on park infrastructure, approved activities, the environment, the enjoyment of other park users and conservation objectives
- d. The extent to which the proposal affects current or future public access
- e. The level of any additional benefits, enjoyment and use opportunities for park visitors, local and regional community and mana whenua
- f. The degree to which persons are affected (including mana whenua) by the proposal
- g. Any enabling of mana whenua to enhance their hauora (long-term well-being) while sustaining the mauri of the park's natural and cultural values
- h. Whether the proposal could reasonably be undertaken in another location, eg, on another

park or on another location in the park where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less

- i. The degree to which the applicant will promote appropriate behaviour in the park with respect to environmental stewardship and other park users
- j. The degree of risk and impact caused by the activity (in relation to health and safety, biosecurity, biodiversity, sustainability, climate change, historic heritage).

The Park Board will give preference to licenses over leases so as not to restrict public access. Leases grant a right to occupy land, and the lessee is able to carry out activities as of right when provided for under a lease without further reference to the Park Board, and to restrict public access to the leased land. Licences provide less exclusivity than leases.

The Park Board will give consideration to the applicants' known or past history of meeting obligations, outcomes and results.

Decisions on whether to grant or decline an application for a concession, easement, lease, or licence must be consistent with the legislation under which the land is held.

4.3.5 Restricted activities, imposition of conditions

When approving restricted activities, the Park Board can impose conditions that include, but are not limited to:

- a. The location
- b. The duration
- c. The time of day and year the activity may be undertaken
- d. Measures for mitigating adverse effects on the environment and natural and cultural heritage resources
- e. Measures for monitoring the effects of the activity
- f. The number of people who may participate
- g. The use of park facilities or services
- h. Health and safety factors
 - i. A trial period to assess the effects of the activity on the park
 - j. Payment of bonds, application fees, activity fees, and/or market based rents
 - k. Periodic monitoring and reporting be carried out and submitted to the Board
- l. Inclusion of termination provisions, which may be imposed for leases and licences where the land is required for future recreation or other public purposes
- m. Compliance with all relevant policies, bylaws and local authority plans

- n. An initial basic rate for leases and licences to be assessed in light of the current market value of any equivalent leases and licences
- o. Any other matter the Board and its advisors consider relevant to ensure the activity is compatible with the outcomes of this plan.

4.4 Prohibited activities

These are activities considered to be inappropriate because of their permanent adverse effects of the environment or that are incompatible with the moemoeā (vision) and policies within the plan. The bylaws also prohibit activities and behaviours that would significantly detract from the enjoyment and safety of other park users.

Enforcement of all activities will be through the Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016 and the Dog Control Act 1996.

The following activities are prohibited in Whitireia:

- a. Spreading or burial of ashes or body parts, human or otherwise (unless this is within the Māori Urupa Reservation with approval of Ngāti Toa Rangatira)
- b. Depositing rubbish
- c. Fireworks

- d. Fires (except for management purposes and portable gas BBQs)
- e. Camping
- f. Hunting or the use of firearms
- g. Motorised recreation (motorbikes/4WD vehicles must keep to sealed roads and speed limits in the park). Excludes electric power assisted bicycles less than 300w.
- h. All mining activities
- i. Farming or stock grazing
- j. Disturbance of Radio New Zealand in any way, shape or form, without prior consent from Raio New Zealand. This includes minor disturbances such as hammering a tent peg, uprooting vegetation, or staking a planted tree or bush.



Driving vehicles off-road is not permitted and causes significant environmental damage



5: Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016

Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, the Whitireia Park Board makes the following bylaws for the control and administration of the reserve.

1 Title

These bylaws are the Whitireia Park Bylaws 2016.

2 Commencement

These bylaws come into force on the day after the date on which they are approved by the Minister of Conservation.

3 Interpretation

In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,—

authorised person means a person authorised by the Whitireia Park Board for the purposes of these bylaws.

reserve means—

- (a) the Whitireia Recreation Reserve as defined in section 149 of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, including any part of that reserve; and
- (b) any other land that is or becomes managed by the Whitireia Park Board as an administering body under the Reserves Act 1977.

Whitireia Park Board means the administering body of the reserve.

4 Reserve open to public

(1) The reserve must be open to the public except when it is closed in accordance with—

- (a) the Reserves Act 1977; or
- (b) a determination of the Whitireia Park Board.

(2) A person must not enter, or remain in, the reserve while it is closed to the public.

5 Gates

(1) A person must leave a gate in the reserve in the same position as the person finds the gate.

(2) For example, a gate in the reserve found—

- (a) open must be left open;
- (b) closed must be left closed.

6 Misbehaviour

(1) A person in the reserve must not—

- (a) intentionally obstruct, disturb, or interfere with any other person's use or enjoyment of the reserve; or
- (b) use foul, abusive, indecent, or obscene language; or
- (c) be intoxicated, noisy, or riotous.

(2) A person who contravenes subclause (1) must leave the reserve if requested to do so by a authorised person.

7 Dangerous weapons

(1) A person must not carry or use a dangerous weapon in the reserve without the prior written permission of the Whitireia Park Board.

(2) In this bylaw, **dangerous weapon** includes a firearm, a bow and arrow, catapult, or shanghai.

(3) Hunting is not permitted in the reserve.

8 Water

A person in the reserve must not—

- (a) permit or cause water to be wasted in the reserve; or
- (b) permit or cause tap water in the reserve to flow for longer than is reasonably required for drinking, cooking, or other lawful purpose; or
- (c) pollute or render unfit for any purpose (whether for human consumption or not) any water supply in the reserve.

9 Aircraft

- (1) A person must not do or attempt to do any of the activities specified in subclause (2) except—
 - (a) with the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board; or
 - (b) in an emergency.
- (2) The activities are—
 - (a) land an aircraft (other than a unpowered paraglider, hang glider or kite surfer) in the reserve;
 - (b) take off in an aircraft (other than a unpowered paraglider, hang glider or kite surfer) from the reserve;
 - (c) use an aircraft in the reserve to set down, pick up, or recover in the reserve any person, livestock, carcass, or article of any description.
- (3) In this bylaw, **aircraft** means any piloted device using air as its medium for movement from place to place and includes helicopters, gliders and hot air balloons. It does not include kites.
- (4) Nothing in this bylaw prevents the use of model aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). However, use of UAVs must comply with Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand rules, part 101 & 102.
 - (a) In this bylaw, **unmanned aircraft** means an aircraft designed to operate with no pilot on board and includes unmanned balloons, kites, control-line model aircraft, free flight model aircraft, fully autonomous aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS).

10 Fires

- (1) A person must not light a fire in the reserve.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not prohibit the lighting of a fire in the reserve—
 - (a) with the express permission of the Whitireia Park Board or an authorised person and the Rural Fire Authority in a Restricted or Prohibited Fire Season (and even then, subject to any condition of that permission); or
 - (b) where the fire is the use of a portable gas stove or gas barbecue.
- (3) A person must not light a fire if it is likely to present a fire hazard, even if the fire is one that subclause (2) applies to and Rural Fire Authority Permit is in place.
- (4) Once a fire is lit, the person who lit the fire must—
 - (a) attend the fire until it is completely extinguished; or
 - (b) arrange for a responsible person to attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.
- (5) A person who attends a fire under subclause (4)(b) must attend the fire until—
 - (a) it is completely extinguished; or
 - (b) replaced by another person who attends the fire under subclause (4)(b).
- (6) A person must not drop, place, or throw in any grass or flammable material in the reserve—
 - (a) any match, whether lighted or not; or
 - (b) any lighted cigarette or other lighted material.
- (7) In this bylaw, **fire** includes the use of solid fuel barbecues, fireworks and similar devices.

11 Litter

- (1) A person in the reserve must—
- (a) take his or her litter out of the reserve; or
 - (b) place his or her litter in a place or receptacle approved or provided for that purpose by the Whitireia Park Board.
- (2) In subclause (1), **litter** includes—
- (a) any refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, garbage, debris, dirt, filth, rubble, ballast, stones, earth, or waste matter, or any other thing of a like nature;
 - (b) any substance or article of a dangerous or offensive nature; and
 - (c) any green waste such as compostable plant material.

12 Dogs

- (1) Dogs within the reserve must be under control at all times (as defined in the Dog Control Act 1996), and must not be allowed to injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person or interfere with other animals or wildlife. The owner or person responsible for the dog shall carry a leash at all times.
- (a) Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times at Onehunga beach, car park and picnic in the area marked by signs.
 - (b) Dog owners must immediately pick up, remove and/ or appropriately dispose of any droppings left by the dog in the reserve.
- (2) An authorised person may seize and detain a dog that is in the reserve in contravention of subclause (1).
- (3) A dog seized and detained under subclause (2) must—
- (a) be returned to its owner, if the authorised person knows or can reasonably ascertain who the owner is; or
 - (b) be committed to the local pound of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or similar facility, if the authorised person does not know and cannot reasonably ascertain who the owner is.

13 Horses

Horses within the reserve must be kept in designated area specifically authorised for that use by the Whitireia Park Board.

14 Animals other than dogs and horses

- (1) No animals, other than dogs and horses, may be brought onto, or allowed to remain on, the reserve without the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board.
- (2) Any authorised person may seize and detain an animal that is in contravention of subclause (1).
- (3) An animal seized and detained under subclause (2) must be dealt with in accordance with section 96 of the Reserves Act 1977.

15 Vehicular and other traffic

- (1) A person must not take, ride, or drive a vehicle or animal into or in the reserve except on any part of the reserve set aside by the Whitireia Park Board for that purpose.
- (2) A person must not take, ride, or drive a vehicle or animal into or in the reserve in a dangerous manner or in a manner that is likely to cause danger, damage, disturbance or nuisance to any person, wildlife, natural and historic features or landforms.
- (3) No person shall drive or ride any vehicle within the reserve at a speed greater than 30kph.
- (4) No person shall drive or ride any vehicle within the reserve when it is closed.
- (5) A person must not stop or leave a vehicle in a way that will obstruct an entrance, thoroughfare, or path within the reserve.
- (6) A person must not wash, clean or repair a vehicle within the reserve.

- (7) In this bylaw, **vehicle** includes a vehicle not propelled by mechanical power.

16 Meetings and gatherings

- (1) No person shall hold, or attempt to conduct any public meeting, gathering, fair or fete, or demonstration, or make any public address, or attempt to collect a crowd in the reserve without the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board.
- (2) Organised sport or games may only be played in areas of the reserve set aside for that purpose, unless with the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board.

17 Planting, collecting, scattering or introducing substances

- A person must not without the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board or authorised person—
- (a) Plant any tree, shrub or plant, or collect or scatter seeds or other substances, including ashes; or
- (b) Introduce any substance injurious to plants or animals.

18 Damage to property

- (1) A person must not do an act prohibited by subclause (3) to anything in the reserve that does not belong to the person, including plants.
- (2) However, subclause (1) does not apply to an act done with the prior permission of Whitireia Park Board.
- (3) The acts prohibited are—
- (a) removing;
- (b) disturbing;
- (c) breaking;
- (d) destroying;
- (e) painting or carving or writing names or letters or words or figures or devices.

19 Noise

- (1) A person in the reserve must not produce or cause any sound or noise that disturbs or annoys, or is likely to disturb or annoy, any other person in the reserve.
- (2) Subclause (1) applies to a person using or playing—
- (a) any instrument (whether musical or not); or
- (b) any type of public address system; or
- (c) any type of amplified sound system.
- (3) Subclause (2) does not limit subclause (1).

20 Camping

A person must not camp (including freedom camping as defined by the Freedom Camping Act 2011) in the reserve.

21 Tents, stalls and other structures

- (1) No person shall erect any tent, marquee, stall, booth, container, or other structure of any kind without:
- (a) the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board or authorised person (and even then subject to any condition of that permission); and
- (b) paying the fees specified by the Whitireia Park Board.
- (2) Nothing in this bylaw prevents the temporary erection of a tent or similar structure solely for the purposes of shade.

22 Commercial activities

No person shall sell or offer for sale any item or carry out any trade, business, or occupation within the reserve without:

- (a) the prior permission of the Whitireia Park Board (and even then subject to any condition of that permission); and
- (b) paying the fees specified by the Whitireia Park Board.

23 Bylaws not to limit or affect other enactments

- (1) These bylaws do not limit or affect the requirements in or under any other enactment.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), bylaws 9 and 10 do not limit or affect the application of any Act or regulations relating to the operation of aircraft or the lighting of fires.

24 Offences

- (1) Every person who does not comply with any requirement in or under these bylaws commits an offence and is liable on conviction under section 104 of the Reserves Act 1977 to:
 - (a) a fine not exceeding \$5,000; and
 - (b) where the offence is a continuing one, a further fine not exceeding \$500 for every day on which the offence continues.
- (2) Any person committing an offence under these bylaws must leave the reserve if requested to do so by an authorised person.
- (3) Any person causing damage by unauthorised fires under section 97 of the Reserves Act 1977 is subject to the penalties of section 102A of the Act:

The penalties are, —

- (a) in the case of an individual, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$100,000, or both;
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, a fine not exceeding \$200,000;
- (c) in any case, where the offence is a continuing one, a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day on which the offence continues.

25 Revocation of previous bylaws

Upon their commencement, these bylaws revoke the Whitireia Park Bylaws 1997.



Fires are not permitted in Whitireia Park, except for portable gas BBQs or stoves

SCHEDULE

Whitireia Park

The former Whitireia Park Bylaw 1997 was passed and adopted by resolution of the Whitireia Park Board at a meeting held on the 17th December 1997.

The Whitireia Park Board at a meeting held on the 29th August 2014 resolved to review the Whitireia Park Bylaws 1997 prepared under the Reserves Act 1977. Accordingly a notice of intent to review the bylaws was placed in the Kapi-Mana News and Dominion Post newspapers within 1 month following this meeting.

On the 20th May 2015 the Whitireia Park Board approved Draft Whitireia Park Bylaws for a two month period of public consultation (in parallel with the Draft Whitireia Park Management Plan). A notice was placed in the Kapi-Mana News and Dominion Post newspapers.

In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, notices have been placed in Kapi-Mana News and Dominion Post newspapers in each of the two weeks preceding the Board meeting at which the Bylaws are to be made.

After the Bylaw is made by resolution of the Board, it shall be submitted to the Minister for approval.

SIGNED on behalf of the Whitireia Park Board this *30th* day of *November* 2015

.....Chairperson

Barbara Donaldson

.....Whitireia Park Board Member

Name:

Approval of the Bylaw by the Minister of Conservation

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Reserves Act 1977, these Bylaws for the Whitireia Park Reserve, to be known as the Whitireia Park Bylaws, are approved.

Dated at Wellington this *9th* day of *February* 2016



Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM
Minister of Conservation

Appendix 1: Land tenure, within and adjacent to Whitireia Park

Key to table:

Ngāti Toa Rangatira land, returned through Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014. Administered by Whitireia Park Board.
Radio New Zealand land, leased to the Department of Conservation (DOC) until 2027.
Conservation land, recreation reserve within the park with control and management by the Whitireia Park Board.
Porirua City Council land, adjacent to the Park.

Title	Legal Description	Area Hectares	Land Owner	Land Status	Comments
1 Part WN447/193	Section 1 SO 446704	0.9362	Toa Rangatira Trust	Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve subject to section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977.	Fee Simple vested in the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust
2 Part WN447/193	Section 2 SO 446704	5.3563	Toa Rangatira Trust	Onehunga Bay Historic Reserve subject to section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977.	Fee Simple vested in the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust
3 Part WN447/193	Section 3 SO 446704	1.0062	Toa Rangatira Trust	To be held as Māori Reservation (Whitireia Urupā)	Maori reservation subject to section 338 of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 set apart for the purposes of a burial ground and held for the benefit of Ngāti Toa Rangatira.
4 WN24A/47	Lot 166 DP 32215	0.6612	Toa Rangatira Trust	Te Onepoto Bay Recreation Reserve subject to section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.	Fee simple estate in Te Onepoto Bay vests in the trustee of the Toa Rangatira Trust.
5 WN8B/1004	Parts Section 186 Porirua District and Lot 6 DP 29446	16.9048	Radio New Zealand Limited	Fee Simple, subject to the Reserves Act 1977 (Recreation Reserve) during the term of the lease to DOC	Leased to DOC by Agreement dated 28 January 2004. Lease expires 31 March 2027.
6 WN26B/990	Lot 36 – 39 DP 25036, Lot 5 DP 29446 and Part Lot 1 DP 10900	36.4140	Radio New Zealand Limited	Fee Simple, subject to the Reserves Act 1977 (Recreation Reserve) during the term of the lease to DOC	Leased to DOC by Agreement dated 28 January 2004. Lease expires 31 March 2027.
7 Part WN447/193	Section 4 SO 446704 (Formally Section 383 Porirua District)	176.1743	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977.	Controlled and managed by Whitireia Park Board

Title	Legal Description	Area Hectares	Land Owner	Land Status	Comments	
8	WN466/179	Lot 73 DP 11522	0.0996	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977 Classified: NZG, 7 July 1994, page 2229. Controlled and managed: NZG, 7 April 2011, page 1084.	Controlled & Managed by Whitireia Park Board
9	NZG 1986 Page 1901	Lot 72 DP 1152	.0819	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977. NZG, 198, page 1901 classified and managed.	Controlled & Managed by Whitireia Park Board
10	NZG 1980 Page 4054	Section 40 Block VIII Paekakariki Survey District	15.1500	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977. Classified by NZG 1981, page 501. Administered by Whitireia Park Board NZG, 1980, page 4054.	Controlled & Managed by Whitireia Park Board
11	WN24A/47	Lot 40 DP 43619	2.6036	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977. Classified, controlled and managed: NZG, 2 October 2008, page 4042.	Controlled and managed by Whitireia Park Board
12	WN24A/47	Lot 167 DP 32215	0.0387	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve, Reserves Act 1977. Classified, controlled and managed: NZG, 2 October 2008, page 4042.	Controlled and managed by Whitireia Park Board (toilets owned and managed by PCC).

Parcels adjacent to Whitireia Park

13	WN19A/1232	Lot 72 and Part Lot 73 DP 7626	0.9030	Porirua City Council	Recreation Reserve – Reserves Act 1977	
14		Lot 74 DP 7626	0.0658	Porirua City Council	Recreation Reserve – Reserves Act 1977	Classified as Reserve by PCC Resolution 30 October 2009. Richard Street Walkway
15		Lot 34 & 35 DP 25036	0.1534	Her Majesty the Queen	Recreation Reserve – Reserves Act 1977	Managed as Owhti Street Reserve
16	NZG 1970 Page 988	Lot 26 DP 25036	0.7167	Porirua City Council	Recreation Reserve – Reserves Act 1977	Classified by NZG 2009 Page 3986 Owhiti Street Reserve
17	N/A	N/A	Not Defined by Survey	Porirua City Council	Road Reserve (Unformed Legal Rd)	Onepoto Rd – begins at boat sheds and extends to Te Onepoto Bay.
18		Lot 161 and 163 DP 32215	.64	Porirua City Council	Recreation Reserve – Reserves Act 1977	Gloaming Hill Reserve

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Appendix 3. Minister of Conservation approval

Approval of management plan under Section 41(1) of the Reserves Act 1977

The Minister of Conservation, through her delegate the Operations Manager for the Wellington District Office of the Department of Conservation, approves the Whitireia Park Management Plan 2016.



Date:

18-2-16

Rob Stone
Operations Manager
Acting pursuant to a delegation from the
Minister of Conservation dated 18 February 2016



The Whitireia Park Board is responsible for the control and management of the Whitireia Park. The Board is made up of three members of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and three members of the Ngati Toa Rangatira Trust, with day to day management undertaken by GWRC. The 180 hectare Whitireia Park is a grassy open space and bush headland with commanding views over Mana Island, Porirua Harbour and the surrounding area. The park is popular for picnics, walking, mountain biking and coastal activities of fishing, swimming, and diving. In the right wind conditions, it's an ideal take-off and landing point for kite surfing and paragliding. The Whitireia Restoration Group undertakes an ongoing programme of habitat restoration activities.

Greater Wellington Regional Council:

Wellington office
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142

04 384 5708

Upper Hutt office
PO Box 40847
Upper Hutt 5018

04 526 4133

Masterton office
PO Box 41
Masterton 5840

06 378 2484

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info@gw.govt.nz
www.gw.govt.nz

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