

Te Muri Regional Park variation

File No.: CP2015/21725

Purpose

1. To endorse the draft variation to the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010 (RPMP) to incorporate Te Muri Regional Park and to seek approval to publically notify this.

Executive Summary

2. The Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee approved public notification of the intention to vary the RPMP to incorporate Te Muri Regional Park at the committee's meeting on 9 June 2015. Council publically notified the intention to vary the RPMP in mid-July.
3. This initial notification sought comment on issues and matters to be considered in the preparation of the draft plan. Feedback to the proposal was received from a number of key stakeholders including recreation groups, neighbours, previous owners and individual members of the public.
4. Key themes from the initial consultation include pedestrian and vehicle access into the park, development of recreational activities such as horse riding walking, cycling, camping, retention of the remote feeling of the park and access over the Te Muri Stream and Puhoi River.
5. Hui have been held with iwi and a cultural impact assessment has been prepared by Ngati Manuhiri. This assessment has been utilised to inform the draft variation.
6. Rodney Local Board members at their Rodney Local Board meeting held on 2 November 2015 formally recorded their views for consideration in the development of the draft variation to the RPMP.
7. If the public notification of the draft variation is approved consultation will run from mid-December 2015 and close early March 2016. Submissions will be heard by independent commissioners in April/May and the commissioners' recommendations reported back to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee for a final decision in June 2016.

Recommendation/s

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee:

- a) endorse the draft variation to the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010 to incorporate Te Muri Regional Park and minor variations to the Mahurangi section of the plan, as shown in Attachments A and B, and requests this be publically notified to seek the community's feedback.

Comments

8. Te Muri Regional Park comprising 382.46ha was purchased by council in 2010. A variation to the RPMP is being undertaken prior to Te Muri Regional Park being formally opened to the public.
9. At the Parks, Recreation and Sport committee's 9 June meeting the committee resolved to
 - a) approve the initiation of a variation of the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010 to incorporate Te Muri Regional Park, and
 - b) approve the appointment of an independent hearings commissioner to hear submissions on a draft variation and to recommend to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee a draft variation to the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010 to incorporate Te Muri Regional Park.

10. The intention to undertake this variation was publicly notified in mid July 2015. This included information on the Shape Auckland website, public notices in the NZ Herald, the Rodney and North Shore Times and Mahurangi Matters. Key stakeholders and local residents within a 1km to 1.5km radius of the park were notified. The closing date for this phase of the consultation was 19 August 2015.
11. Comments were received from 140 people via email, of which 88 of these were on a pro-forma submission. Submissions on behalf of groups were received from:
 - Department of Conservation
 - NZ Horse Network
 - Horse Connections NZ
 - Auckland Tramping Club
 - Puhoi Canoes
 - NZ Walking Access Commission
 - Mahurangi Action Inc
 - West Auckland District Tramping Club
 - Friends of Regional Parks
 - New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
12. Three members of the Schischka family (previous landowner) provided comments on the future of the park.
13. In addition a petition on Change.Org was organised by Horse Connections NZ and had 1,046 signatories supporting the provision of horse riding on the park.
14. The main themes evident in the initial feedback have been:
 - Retention of the remote visitor experience
 - Provision for horse-riding and mountain biking
 - Development of a coastal trail connecting Te Muri with Wenderholm and Mahurangi West Regional Parks
 - Utilising the park for the Te Araroa trail as an alternative to going down the Puhoi River
 - Vehicle access into the park
 - Retention and expansion of camping opportunities
15. The feedback received from this first round of consultation has been has been used to inform the draft variation, refer to Attachment C for a summary of this feedback.
16. The draft variation covers the addition of Te Muri Regional Park to Section 17 Parks Specific Management, refer to Attachment A. This includes a park vision, park values, management focus, management policies and recreation use and activities.
17. The vision for the park is:

Together with Wenderholm and Mahurangi Regional Parks, Te Muri forms a strategic coastal park network on the north eastern coast of the region. Te Muri is a farmed park that offers a wide range of individual and group-orientated active outdoor recreation pursuits in a picturesque setting with panoramic views over the Hauraki Gulf and islands. The park contains a kiwi bach escape and a camping area close to a sandy beach offering safe swimming, kayaking and other beach related activities. The park is rich in cultural heritage and natural values and is an outstanding example of best practice land management which provides a context for environmental education and demonstrates effective conservation strategies.

18. The plan provides for a staged development of the park to provide for recreational use. This will initially hinge on improvements being made to Hungry Creek Road and the intersection with State Highway 1. It is proposed an arrival area be developed at the entrance to the park and that as resources permit the central road would be upgraded and a primary arrival area would be developed, set back from the beach.
19. While there was support in the feedback not to provide vehicle access into the park, this is required to fully utilise the council's significant investment in this park and make it as available as possible to all sectors of the community.
20. Over time a track network will be developed that caters for walkers, horse riders and mountain bike riders. The plan also gives consideration to linking Te Muri with the adjacent regional parks, as suggested in the feedback.
21. The park's significant cultural and historic values have been recognised in policies that aim to protect, enhance and interpret these. In addition, while the park will continue to be farmed, revegetation will continue to be undertaken in riparian areas and erosion prone slopes. The significant view shafts in the park have been identified and will be protected.
22. The map of Te Muri Regional Park is currently under development and will be tabled at the meeting. This reflects the park vision and management and development policies considered for the park and will be included in the RPMP Volume 2: Maps.
23. A minor variation to the RPMP related to adjoining Mahurangi (West) Regional Park is proposed to update this to remove or amend reference to Te Muri where appropriate, refer to Attachment B which includes tracked changes. There will also be an addendum added to the RPMP of consequential changes relating to the addition of Te Muri to the regional park network. No changes are proposed to the generic policy sections.

Consideration

Local board views and implications

24. At the Rodney Local Board Parks, Culture and Community Development Committee workshop on the 21st September 2015 the members discussed the main themes from the feedback received from the initial round of public consultation and provided staff with their views.
25. At the workshop the committee requested their views be formally recorded by way of resolutions at their Parks, Culture and Community Development Committee meeting on 2 November 2015. The local board resolved at this meeting that their views to be considered in the preparation of the variation were:
 - a) Greater consultation with the community is required on the coastal trail proposal, particularly the bridge across the Puhoi River and the associated visual impact, health and safety issues and the significant cost required to develop and maintain the structure.
 - b) Support pedestrian and operational access being provided across the Te Muri Stream.
 - c) Acknowledge and retain the remote feeling of the park.
 - d) Provision of practicable vehicle access to the park for families, the elderly or infirm.
 - e) Support developing the park for use by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.
 - f) Support houses on the park being added to the council's bach escapes.
 - g) Support linking existing and proposed walkway connections through Te Muri Regional Park to add to the national walkway network.
26. These matters have been considered in the development of the draft variation.

Māori impact statement

27. Te Muri Regional Park is a place of significance for Iwi and contains a number of important historic sites including pa, urupa and other archaeological sites.
28. Iwi consultation was initiated in June and hui have been held with Ngati Manuhiri, Ngati Whatua o Kaipara and Ngati Maru.
29. Ngati Manuhiri has prepared a cultural values assessment to cover Te Muri, Wenderholm and Mahurangi West Regional Parks. This has been considered in the development of the draft variation and will assist future management and planning at Te Muri, Wenderholm and Mahurangi Regional Parks.
30. Further engagement with these mana whenua will now be undertaken over the draft plan.

Implementation

31. Due to the consultation period running over the Christmas break the consultation period is proposed to run from mid-December 2015 to early March 2016. This will allow a park open day and further hui to be held in February and sufficient time for feedback to be submitted before the consultation period closes in early March.
32. Consultation will include advertising in the NZ Herald and three local papers, posters or temporary signage located on adjoining regional parks and notice boards in the local area, a park open day. Key stakeholders and local residents within a 1km to 1.5km radius of the park will be notified. There will be information on Shape Auckland Shape Auckland website Council's Facebook page and will include a link to an online survey.
33. It is anticipated that any hearing of submissions and deliberations will be held in April/May 2016 and that the final plan will be adopted by the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee by June/July 2016.

Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Draft variation covering Te Muri Regional Park	85
B	Draft minor variation to Mahurangi	99
C	Summary of feedback to the initial round of consultation	113

Signatories

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17.24 Te Muri Regional Park

17.24.1 Park values

1.1 Land Form

Located 46 kilometres from central Auckland on the region's north eastern coast, the 387 hectare park extends three kilometres inland from Te Muri Beach and is bounded by Te Muri-O-Tarariki Stream (Te Muri Stream) in the north and the Puhoi River to the South. Te Muri is situated between Mahurangi Regional Park (West) across the Te Muri Stream and Wenderholm Regional Park across the Puhoi River. The Te Muri beach portion of the park is currently managed as part of Mahurangi Regional Park. This part of the park which fronts the Te Muri beach is currently open to the public who can access it on foot across the Te Muri Stream. It contains a remote campground, and the Te Muri urupa and cemetery.

The land consists largely of open pasture with a central east-west ridge. The highest point is 130 metres above sea level. The ridge culminates in a large area of flat land in the east behind the sandy Te Muri Beach. A series of minor ridges fall away from the central ridge to the north to the Te Muri Stream and to the south to the Puhoi River. Areas of native and exotic forests are dispersed along and between these ridges. The valleys and flats contain a number of small streams and wetlands.

1.2 Cultural significance

The land has a long and rich pre-European history involving multiple inter-tribal events, battles and marriages dating back to the mid-1600s. The peoples of Ngati Manuhiri, Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua have continued association to the land through this history and the fact that tupuna are buried at the Te Muri urupa on the park. Significant and highly valued sites include a number of prominent and reasonably intact pa, kianga sites, such as a Nokenoke, and the urupa, including a burial site for taonga, such as the tohora (whales)¹.

The land has been farmed since the 1820s. Successive generations of the Schischka family have farmed the Puhoi block from 1885 till the sale of the land to the Auckland Council in 2010. Owing to its isolation from roads stock were forded over the Puhoi River at low tide whilst fertiliser and building materials were bought to Te Muri Beach by

¹ Maori histories and statement of the cultural values associated with Wenderholm, Te Muri and Mahurangi (West) Regional Parks can be found in more detail in a Cultural Values Assessment prepared by the Ngati Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust, October 2015.

barge. The original Schischka cottage at the south end of the beach has been removed. However, a garage, a cottage made available as a retreat for Franciscan friars and a small cottage on the bank of the Puhoi River remain. The land also contains an historic woolshed and two houses.

1.3 Natural heritage

Natural heritage of the park is characterised by a diverse range of native ecosystems types. These include coastal pohutukawa forest, kauri-podocarp-broadleaved forest, scrub, freshwater wetlands, dunes and extensive estuarine areas with mangroves, saltmarsh and salt meadow. There are also several streams with connectivity to the marine environment. One of the most significant features from a natural heritage perspective is the intact ecological sequence which extends from the Te Muri beach to the Te Muri estuary and upstream to freshwater wetlands and the Te Muri Stream. There are few remaining examples of this type and quality in the Auckland region. To date 348 plant species have been recorded and ten of these are nationally or regionally threatened plant species.

Existing vegetation and wetlands have been extensively modified through logging, farm conversion and on-going farming activities and have until recently been grazed by stock. The property has, however, potential for extensive restoration of these ecosystems through protection and re-vegetation programmes, which can be achieved without compromising the land's recreation potential or spectacular views.

A range of common native and exotic birds have been recorded. Threatened bird species known to utilise habitats within the park include an estimated three to five pairs of Northern New Zealand dotterel and two to three pairs of variable oystercatcher. Both species nest each year on Te Muri beach. A flock of up to 40 godwits arrive each summer and Caspian terns are occasional visitors. Paradise shelduck and mallard duck also inhabit the estuarine areas. Kaka appear as seasonal visitors to the park. Australasian bittern, banded rail and spotless crane were recorded during the 1980s 'NZ Wildlife Service Sites of Special Wildlife Interest' surveys of the Puhoi River and the Te Muri Stream. There are potentially populations of Hochstetter's frog and wetland bird, gecko and skink species within the park given the suitable habitat available.

1.4 Recreation potential

The parkland has significant recreation potential for a range of active outdoor pursuits, such as tramping, mountain biking, horse riding, camping and beach related activities. The land directly behind Te Muri Beach, which is currently managed as part of Mahurangi Regional Park (West), contains a remote campground catering for 80 persons.

This campground is currently only accessible from Mahurangi West by crossing the Te Muri Stream on foot at low tide. It is intended that all land south of the Te Muri Stream that is currently managed as part of Mahurangi Regional Parks (West) will be formally incorporated into the new Te Muri Regional Park.

17.24.2 Park vision

Together with Wenderholm and Mahurangi Regional Parks, Te Muri forms a strategic coastal park network on the north eastern coast of the region. Te Muri is a farmed park that offers a wide range of individual and group-orientated active outdoor recreation pursuits in a picturesque setting with panoramic views over the Hauraki Gulf and islands. The park contains a kiwi bach escape and a camping area close to a sandy beach offering safe swimming, kayaking and other beach related activities. The park is rich in cultural heritage and natural values and is an outstanding example of best practice land management which provides a context for environmental education and demonstrates effective conservation strategies.

17.24.3 Management focus

Over the long term, Te Muri will be managed as a Class II park (refer to section 7.1). The management of the park will recognise the strategic location of Te Muri and its relationship to the Mahurangi Harbour, Puhōi River, Hauraki Gulf islands and adjoining regional parks by providing:

- A sustainably farmed and forested setting with expansive views of the Hauraki Gulf that enhances the biodiversity values and cultural landscape of the wider area by protecting and restoring riparian areas, wetlands, native forest and cultural sites which the public can enjoy while undertaking a wide range of recreation activities.
- Opportunities for mana whenua to strengthen their connection to the whenua, to provide for their hauora (long term wellbeing) and to be involved in the park management processes in ways which have particular regard to the practical expression of kaitiakitanga.
- A place to learn about the Maori and European history of the park and the surrounding area.
- Providing a network of land and water trails
- A range of settings for a variety of active and passive recreation activities, including but not limited to traditional regional park activities, such as walking, tramping, and orienteering, as well as mountain biking and horse riding.

- Access to a safe sandy beach for swimming and beach-related activities such as picnicking, and to the coast for water-based recreation, such as kayaking.
- Overnight accommodation opportunities in the form of:
 - Camping close to a sandy and safe swimming beach
 - Bach escape

The management of Te Muri will focus on;

- protecting, restoring and enhancing the wetlands, riparian areas, coastal forest ecosystems by fencing, implementing pest plant and animal management and a re-vegetation programme
- protecting threatened and uncommon native species and maintaining the integrity of their habitats
- protecting and interpreting the historic heritage and archaeological features of the park
- identifying and recording mana whenua values associated with the park, and creating opportunities to increase mana whenua involvement with the park
- developing the necessary infrastructure, such as roads, parking, tracks, visitor facilities for opening the park for public use
- re-vegetating eroding slopes and fencing waterways and native bush areas
- determining the use and management of the exotic woodlots for land management purposes, such as erosion control
- managing various sustainable farming operations and infrastructure in order to maintain the open vistas and to provide a context for outdoor recreation activities
- developing and strengthening partnerships with recreation groups, schools, concessionaires and licensees, and
- establishing and maintaining relationships with adjacent landowners and volunteers to assist in the development and management of the park.

As a priority over the next five years the council will focus on the following park developments;

- complete fencing and continue enhancing the native bush, fresh water and wetland habitats, including inanga breeding areas
- manage erosion prone areas through fencing and re-vegetation

- protect archaeological sites and install necessary signs and interpretation.
- develop the main arrival area near the Hungry Creek Road entrance following Hungry Creek Road and the intersection with the State Highway being improved
- develop recreational trails for walking and cycling, linking to existing trails systems and including where appropriate multi-use tracks, with associated recreation facilities and structures
- remove the shed on the foreshore and upgrade camping services as necessary
- maintain and where necessary upgrade the existing park houses
- upgrade the existing central barn as the park depot and workshop
- manage and improve the farming infrastructure, including maintaining the existing farm tracks as gravelled tracks
- install kauri dieback hygiene measures in vicinity of kauri-podocarp-broadleaved remnants.
- remove invasive and unnecessary infrastructure off historic heritage and archaeological sites (for example the fence through the central pa site)

17.24.4 Management policies

IMPORTANT: The following management policies must be read in conjunction with the relevant principles, objectives and policies contained in Parts 6 to 16 of this plan.

Natural settings

1. Protect, restore and enhance the wetlands, riparian areas, coastal forest ecosystems by fencing, implementing pest plant and animal management and a re-vegetation programme in the areas identified on Map 24, through a series of re-vegetation plans developed in accordance with policy 7.2.2.2 with an emphasis on:
 - a) preventing stock access
 - b) protecting water quality of the rivers and streams through fencing riparian and wetland areas and planting appropriate native species
 - c) preventing erosion on steep slopes

While;

- d) protecting the views and vistas of the Hauraki Gulf, including those identified on Map 24
 - e) protecting the integrity of cultural sites.
2. Prior to harvesting exotic woodlots, identify the areas to be re-afforested based on consideration of carbon sequestration needs and liabilities, as well as providing for recreation opportunities.
3. Protect stands of kauri from the threat of kauri dieback disease by avoiding locating track systems close to kauri, through appropriate track design and maintaining kauri dieback hygiene measures and encouraging implementation by all park users.
4. Establish plan to replace Tasmanian ngaio from revegetation and amenity plantings and remove willow from the Te Muri Stream.
5. Maintain dune ecosystem to ensure it remains weed-free and public access is managed as required to protect dune vegetation.
6. Undertake further surveys of the fauna to confirm the presence of indigenous species formerly identified in the locality and any new species, implementing management necessary to ensure their protection.
7. Complete an assessment of all online stream culverts to ensure they provide for fish passage.
8. Rehabilitate potential inanga spawning habitat situated on the edge of the Te Muri estuary and in the low lying basin northeast of the woolshed by widening and benching the excavated drains to optimise their bank profile and maximise their cross-sectional area for spawning fish.

Cultural and historic settings

9. Protect and enhance the cultural values in accordance with the policies in Part 9 Mana whenua and Part 11 Cultural heritage settings. (See also Policies 36 and 37 below)
10. Record and map cultural and historic heritage sites on the parkland and develop methods for the protection and interpretation of sites of significant cultural and heritage value, in conjunction with mana whenua.

11. Prepare a conservation plan and seek the statutory approvals to maintain historic heritage and archaeological sites on the park, including: the pa site CHI 6799, R10/164 (plan to re-align the fence that currently bisects the site and remove grazing cattle) and other sites being, midden, terraces, logging chute R10/248, burial ground / ururpa R10/243, settlement (historic) R10/323 and pa headland R10/91.
12. Acknowledge the Schischka families historic ties to the land by naming a feature on the park in consultation with the family.

Farm settings

13. Continue to sustainably farm areas of the park as open pasture acknowledging the parks rural heritage, retain key views and vistas, and facilitate recreation and use of the park (including farm experiences).
14. Progressively replace, relocate and improve fences to facilitate the development of a track network outlined in policy 27 below.
15. Protect native forest, waterways and wetlands and erosion prone areas from livestock intrusion through fencing, retirement and re-vegetation.
16. Retain appropriate trees in grazed areas and, where necessary, plant further trees for shade and shelter for farm stock in accordance with the Regional Parks Livestock Shelter and Shade Management Guidelines.
17. Continue pasture weed management to reduce significant weed issues.
18. Maintain and improve livestock support and handling facilities.
19. Investigate the potential for additional woodlots or the expansion of existing woodlots.

Recreation and use management

20. Work with Auckland Transport and NZTA to promote the upgrading of Hungry Creek Road and the intersection with the State Highway to make it safe for vehicular traffic to the park.
21. Subject to Policy 20, develop the main arrival node near the Hungry Creek Road entrance (refer to the options for the location of this shown on Map 24), that introduces visitors to the vistas and opportunities on offer, including;

- a) an automatic park gate
 - b) vehicle parking
 - c) visitor information and emergency phone
 - d) public toilets and water supply, and
 - e) subject to the Hungry Creek Road improvements allowing the safe passage of horse floats and campervans, develop parking for horse floats and a small temporary self-contained campground.
22. As resources permit and subject to Hungry Creek Road and the intersection with the State Highway being improved, upgrade the central park road.
23. In conjunction with the central park road upgrade, prepare and implement a development plan for Te Muri Beach, in accordance with Section 7.3, incorporating the relocation of the campground and providing an arrival area set back from Te Muri beach as shown on Map 24, involving;
- a) vehicle parking
 - b) visitor information and emergency phone
 - c) public toilets and water supply, and
 - d) investigate, and if feasible, provide a self-contained campground
 - e) investigate, and if feasible, provide a back-country campsite in the wider Mahurangi Regional Park area.
24. Investigate, and if feasible and resources permit, develop a car parking area on Mahurangi Regional Park on the north side of the Te Muri Stream as shown on Map 24 involving;
- a) vehicle parking
 - b) visitor information and emergency phone
 - c) public toilets and water supply.
25. Investigate, and if feasible and as resources permit, construct a bridge over the Te Muri Stream for the purposes of pedestrian and service vehicle (LUV) access only.

26. Investigate, and if feasible and resources permit, develop design options to enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross the Puhoi River, linking the Wenderholm and Te Muri track systems; taking into consideration the following factors:
 - a) the environmental, heritage, cultural and landscape impacts
 - b) impacts on the river and estuarine hydrodynamics
 - c) the impacts of the river flow dynamics
 - d) the impact on the navigability of the river
 - e) build-ability (geotechnical considerations)
 - f) what options are available, including, but not limited to: a bridge crossing, barges and water taxis, and
 - g) what alternate means or routes are available that don't require a crossing.
27. Work with stakeholders to develop a walking and mountain biking track network, including where appropriate multi-use tracks, that provides a diverse range of experiences and challenge levels as indicated on Map 24.
28. Subject to Hungry Creek Road and the intersection with the State Highway being improved to allow the safe passage of horse floats, work with horse riding groups and other stakeholders to develop horse riding trails on the park utilising existing farm tracks.
29. Develop heritage interpretive features or a trail which includes areas;
 - a) with significant ecological values
 - b) with significant archaeological, cultural and historic values, in consultation with interested mana whenua.
30. Install way finding signs to orientate visitors and facilitate visitor access to the recreation destinations within the park, including the key views and vistas.
31. Maintain and enlarge the campground on Te Muri Beach, pulling it back from the beach frontage in accordance with the Te Muri Beach development plan (See policy 23 above).
32. Investigate, and if feasible, provide for 'glamping' opportunities on the park by way of concessionaires.

33. Support Te Muri being included in a sea kayak trail incorporating the offshore islands.
34. Investigate, and if feasible, permit the use of existing houses not used for operational purposes as bach escapes or for other recreation-oriented purposes.
35. Facilitate opportunities to cater for recreation and social events on the park, as controlled or discretionary activities, which align with the vision and values outlined above, and including but not limited to concessionaires and mana whenua groups who can facilitate recreation and cultural activities on or from the park.

Mana whenua

36. Recognise mana whenua through:
 - a) acknowledging the relationship of mana whenua to the park through a range of visitor services, such as interpretation and tohu mana whenua,
 - b) consulting on the naming, planning and management of the sites of value to mana whenua,
 - c) investigating options with mana whenua to enable them to exercise their role as kaitiaki over sites of significance and involvement in the design of features on the park, and
 - d) supporting mana whenua to undertake activities which enable them to provide for their long term health and well-being while sustaining the mauri of the park's natural and historic resources (refer to Part 7 of this plan).
37. Ensure senior staff responsible for managing the park meet at least once a year with mana whenua appointed kaitiaki representatives to discuss the annual work programme and the policies outlined in Part 9 of this plan.²
38. Maintain, in association with mana whenua, the Te Muri urupa and cemetery.
39. Where appropriate use te reo on information relating to the parks, including signs and marker posts.

² For an up to date list of iwi contacts please refer to the iwi engagement section of the council website.

Principal relationships

40. Liaise with adjoining landowners and the local community to ensure the planning, development and management of land adjoining the parkland at Te Muri:
 - a) protects and enhances the park values,
 - b) provides an integrated approach to pest animal and plant control programmes, ecological restoration programmes and recreation activities.
41. Liaise with Auckland Council planning and regulatory teams to ensure the council bylaws facilitate the effective management of the park.
42. Support the Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Conservation and mana whenua in promoting and enforcing fisheries regulations and enforce any council control of set netting from regional parks (Refer to policy 13.6.1.5).
43. Continue to liaise with stakeholders and community groups to develop and improve recreation opportunities on the park.
44. Establish a friends group for the park and wider Mahurangi network of regional parks.
45. Establish a volunteer programme to increase community engagement and support park outcomes, in accordance with Section 13.2.6.

17.24.5 Recreation and use activities

Permitted activities

The table below shows the permitted activities that are allowed on Te Muri Regional Park in accordance with section 13.3 of this plan. It also outlines any restrictions that will be applied to the permitted activities for this park.

If an activity is not listed in this table, it may be allowed as a controlled or as a discretionary activity in terms of section 13.5, unless they are prohibited in terms of section 13.6 of this plan. The council may also apply temporary restrictions to any permitted or conditional activity (refer to policy 13.3.1.3). Any temporary restrictions will be advertised in park brochures, signs or using other media.

Permitted activities	Status/restriction
Barbecues	Portable gas barbecues are permitted but fire restrictions may apply over the summer period.
Boat access (including sea kayak/waka)	Beaches suitable for launching small craft such as kayaks. Bookable camping facilities are available for people arriving by kayaks or waka.
Dogs	Dogs are not permitted on the park. Note that dog control is subject to the Dog Control Act 1996 and is subject to change – refer to the council website.
Informal group activities	Size of groups is restricted to 75 persons in order to manage conflict with other recreation activities. Groups larger than 75 must obtain a controlled or discretionary activity consent. Informal group activities generally include, picnicking, walking, tramping, and informal games (refer to section 11.3 and Glossary).
Mountain biking	Permitted on designated tracks and open pasture areas but restrictions may apply to protect sites of significance to mana whenua, sensitive historic heritage and archaeological sites and ecological areas; or to enable park operations such as farming operations, track maintenance and pest control.

Permitted activities	Status/restriction
Walking, running and orienteering	Permitted on designated tracks and open pasture areas but restrictions may apply to protect sites of significance to mana whenua, sensitive historic heritage and archaeological sites and ecological areas; or to enable park operations such as farming operations, track repair and pest control.

Controlled activities

The table below shows the controlled activities that are allowed on the parkland at Te Muri, as outlined in section 13.4. It also outlines where information on permanent restrictions to controlled activities can be found. Note: controlled activities require prior booking through the council.

If an activity is not listed in this table, it may be allowed as a discretionary activity in terms of section 13.5, unless they are prohibited in section 13.6 of this plan.

The council may also apply temporary restrictions to any controlled activities (refer to policy 13.4.1.2). Any temporary restrictions will be advertised in park brochures, signs or using other media.

Controlled activities	Description of site (if applicable)	Restrictions/conditions
Baches	Puhoi Cottage is available for hire. Other baches may become available once road access is improved.	Baches must be booked through the council call centre. Check the council website for availability. Conditions and fees apply.
Campervans/ Caravans	Self-contained campground opportunities may become available once access to and through the park has been improved.	Subject to Hungry Creek Road being made safe for the passage of campervans. Requires self-containment certification. Conditions and fees apply.
Camping	Back-country campground (initially a maximum of 80 people). Vehicle-based camping may become available once road access is improved.	Camping must be booked through the council call centre. Check the council website for availability. Conditions and fees apply.

Controlled activities	Description of site (if applicable)	Restrictions/conditions
Recreational horse riding	May be permitted on designated routes and open pastures but restrictions apply to protect sites of value to mana whenua, sensitive historic heritage, archaeological sites and ecological areas.	Subject to Hungry Creek Road being made safe for the passage of horse floats. Riders must obtain an annual horse riding pass. Access may be denied for periods because of park operations, such as farming operations, track repair and pest control or poor ground conditions. Check the council website.

Prohibited activities

Activities listed in section 13.6 of this plan are prohibited on Te Muri Regional Park.

Leases and licences

No leases and licences were operating on Te Muri Regional Park when this management plan was adopted. However, new licences may be created in terms of section 13.5 'Discretionary Activities' of this plan during the term of the plan. For an up to date list of issued licences please refer to the council website.

17.24.6 Monitoring

The council will monitor aspects of the Te Muri regional Park in accordance with section 7.7 of this plan.

Attachment B: Section 17.7 Mahurangi Regional Park

17.7.1 Park values

Mahurangi Regional Park is a collection of coastal park locations that define the entrance into the Mahurangi Harbour, totalling 245 hectares. The park consists of three distinct areas with two coastal peninsulas that contain a range of sheltered sandy bays backed by bush covered coastal cliffs and overlooking the scenic Mahurangi Harbour. The park is made up of:

- a) Mahurangi West; consisting of Tungutu Point overlooking the sheltered popular sandy Sullivan's Bay (Otarawao) and the secluded Mita Bay (Otuaawao) to the north, and Cudlip Point overlooking the ~~relatively-isolated open flats of Te Muri Bay across the~~ Te Muri Estuary to the south and Te Muri Regional Park. The geological exposures around Cudlip Point and the relatively unmodified east coast estuary are of regional significance. The council manages an esplanade reserve along the northern side of the Te Muri River. Sullivan's Bay has a vehicle-based campground and there ~~are is a~~ back-country campgrounds at ~~Te Muri and Mita Bays. Puhoi Cottage, at the Puhoi River Mouth, was built as an early holiday home.~~
- b) Scott Point; lying at the end of the bush covered Te Kapa peninsula in the Mahurangi harbour, contains two baches and the historic Scott Homestead which fronts onto a secluded sandy bay. The peninsula also contains a Department of Conservation reserve and a wharf and boat ramp managed by the local authority that serves recreational boating and the local shellfish industry. The Department of Conservation managed Casnell Island lies just off the headland.
- c) Mahurangi East; which is isolated on the eastern peninsula, separated by the Te Kapa river estuary and the Mahurangi harbour, is accessible only by boat. It contains two baches, one on the west side of the peninsula fronting the tidal Lagoon Bay (Vine House), and one the eastern side in the secluded and sandy Big Bay. It also contains an historic and restored woolshed and a small campground.

Areas of coastal forest dominated by mature pohutukawa and regenerating bush, including kauri, are dotted throughout the park. The best preserved examples are on many of the headlands, such as Cudlip point, ~~Te Muri Point~~ and overlooking Sullivan's Bay. The Mahurangi harbour and coastline hosts a variety of sea birds such as the threatened NZ Dotterel which nests ~~at Te Muri beach and~~ on Mahurangi East, and little blue penguin which nest all along the Mahurangi coast.

The Mahurangi area has a long history of occupation, favoured for its plentiful, seasonal food supplies and natural resources; fishing grounds in the sheltered tidal waters

between the islands and the bay, shellfish gathering on the rocky and sandy shores, eels in the streams, birds in the bush inland, and kumara cultivation on the better drained soils on the slopes and alluvial beach flats. The Mahurangi sea area was also a prized shark fishing ground for tangata whenua of Tāmaki, which were dried for winter food and the collection of shark liver oil (which was mixed with pigment for paint and as a body adornment). The descendants of Ngawhetu and Maki (Ngāti Rongo & Te Kawerau) claim the right of kaitiakitanga over this park land including the fortified pa at Opahi and Otarahao, the places known as Tungutu, Nokenoke, Orokaraka, Puhoi and the Te Muri.

The sea captain, John Sullivan married Meremai Kaipuke and they settled at Sullivan's Bay in the 1870's. Their descendants farmed the land for nearly a century and built the historic Sullivan Homestead in 1875. ~~Both Māori and Europeans are buried at the historic Te Muri cemetery (urupa) on the park.~~ Scott Point, with the Georgian styled homestead built in 1877, was the location of thriving timber milling, boat building and firewood cutting industries and coastal trade.

There are a number of off-shore islands close to the Mahurangi coast. These include Te Haupa (Saddle), Motuora, Motutara, Moturekareka and Kawau Islands. The area is very popular for recreational boating and for activities such as sea kayaking. The park receives between 60,000 to 100,000 visits each year. A popular annual event, the Mahurangi Old Timer Regatta for classic vessels, is often held at Sullivan's Bay and the regatta ball held at the Scott Homestead. The parks are particularly popular with families holidaying in the baches and campgrounds on the parks. Sullivan's Bay is particularly popular, where people compete for space for picnicking, swimming, camping and staying in campervans during the peak of the summer season. In contrast, more remote experiences are offered at ~~Te Muri, which has no road access and is separated by the Te Muri River estuary, and~~ Mahurangi East, which is separated by the Te Kapa River estuary and Mahurangi Harbour, and is only accessible by boat.

Mahurangi Regional Park was progressively acquired for regional park purposes ~~between from 1966 and 1979~~. The park land was developed in the late 1970s and its patterns of use are now well established. The small campground at Sullivan's Bay is very popular and the park is an increasingly popular destination for campervans, which currently park in the foreshore parking area in the main arrival area. There are growing concerns about the visual impact of campervans on the park and views from the sea.

17.7.2 Park vision

Mahurangi Regional Park is a set of separate locations on the beautiful Mahurangi Harbour, with isolated destinations only accessible by foot ~~at low tide~~ or by boat. They

offer superb swimming on sandy beaches, views of the coastline and off-shore islands and unrivalled kayaking and boating. Camping is provided at beachfront camp sites and overnight stays are possible at superbly located baches. The rich Māori and settler history of the Mahurangi is protected, in particular ~~at Te Muri cemetery and~~ at Scott's Homestead.

17.7.3 Management focus

Over the long term, Mahurangi Regional Park will be managed as a Class II park (refer to section 7.1), with Sullivan's Bay and Scott Point managed as a Special management zones. The park will provide:

- Protection of the outstanding headland landscapes at the mouth of the Mahurangi harbour and enhancement of the coastal forests by protecting and enhancing the biodiversity values of the park including the restoration of the coastal forests containing pohutukawa and stands of mature puriri.
- Opportunities for tangata whenua to strengthen their connection to the land, to provide for their hauora, and to be involved in the park management processes in ways which have particular regard to the practical expression of kaitiakitanga.
- The opportunity to learn about the rich Māori and European history of the locality.
- Opportunities for people to enjoy an overview of the entrance to the scenic Mahurangi harbour, and a key access point to the Mahurangi Harbour for water related recreation, such as sea kayaking, by promoting the park as a maritime-oriented park.
- Opportunities for people to enjoy tramping, walking and picnicking at a number of beach locations.
- Intimate and isolated camping and bach stay opportunities on the park.

Over the next 10 years the management of Mahurangi Regional Park will focus on:

- maintaining, protecting and enhancing the coastal forest, with an emphasis of protecting and replacing pohutukawa, protecting stands of puriri and the habitats and populations of indigenous fauna,
- establishing tangata whenua for the park, identifying, mapping and assessing tangata whenua values associated with the park, and creating processes and opportunities to increase tangata whenua involvement with regional parks,
- enabling people to learn about the rich maritime history of the locality by interpreting the significant heritage stories, including people, places, milestones and events,

- protecting the historic Scott Homestead and establish appropriate community uses for it,
- integrating the management of regional, local authority and Department of Conservation park land and reserves in the locality, and
- rationalising the day use and camping arrangements at Sullivan's Bay and make provision for campervans in a way that does not detract from the visual amenity of the park and views from the sea, the amenity of the existing campground and the enjoyment of day visitors.

Over the next five years the council will give priority to;

- reviewing the configuration of the arrival area at Sullivan's Bay and upgrading this; including relocating the campervans at Sullivan's Bay away from the beach frontage to improve the visual amenity of the park,
- constructing a designated ~~CCSCC~~ campground~~ervan-area~~, and
- reducing the size of the Sullivan's Bay campground and developing additional camping opportunities to the west of the existing campground.

17.7.4 Management policies

IMPORTANT: The following management policies must be read in conjunction with the relevant principles, objectives and policies contained in parts 6 to 16 of this plan.

Natural settings

1. Complete the coastal forest enhancement revegetation programme with supplementary planting of pohutukawa, where appropriate, while retaining the views and vistas.
2. Manage recreational activity, especially dogs, in the coastal areas so that they do not unduly disturb the birdlife, such as nesting little blue penguins and NZ dotterels.
3. Maintain pest animal and plant control on the park to prevent incursions onto the off-shore islands in the vicinity.
4. Implement measures in areas of kauri to reduce the risk of spreading kauri dieback, in accordance with section 10.4.4.

Cultural heritage settings

5. Resurvey and update information on archaeological sites on the park land and implement the Archaeological Site Management Actions identified in the Cultural Heritage Inventory.
6. Develop an interpretation trail using existing tracks at Sullivans Bay to assist management and understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the park and surrounding.
7. Manage the historic buildings in accordance with the following heritage conservation plans:
 - a) Sullivan Homestead Conservation Plan 2003,
 - ~~b) Schischka Cottage Conservation Plan 2002,~~
 - ~~c) Vine House Conservation Plan 2001 (which includes the Lagoon Woolshed),~~
 - ~~d) Scott Homestead Conservation Plan 2000.~~
- ~~8. Formalise the management of the historic Te Muri Cemetery with Rodney District Council.~~
- ~~9. Prepare and implement, in consultation with descendants and Rodney District Council, a management plan for the Te Muri cemetery, as shown on Map 7.2.~~

Farmed settings

- ~~108.~~ Continue to farm the majority of the park as open pasture on Mahurangi West to recognise its rural heritage, retain key views and vistas, and facilitate recreation and use (including farm experiences).
- ~~119.~~ Retain trees in grazed areas and, where necessary, plant further trees for shade and shelter for farm stock consistent with the Regional Parks Livestock Shelter and Shade Management Guidelines.

Recreation and use management

- ~~12. Upgrade and manage the Puhoi cottage as overnight accommodation as part of the bach escapes programme.~~
- ~~1310.~~ Maintain the informal lay-by at Tungutu Point to provide access to a major vantage point.

~~1411.~~ Reconfigure the car parking at the park entrance to Sullivan Bay to improve security, and maintain the service road access to Te Muri Regional Park and facilitate pedestrian access to Te Muri beach.

~~1512.~~ ~~Maintain Te Muri beach as a remote location and Te Muri Campground as a backcountry campground with pedestrian and boat access only.~~ Investigate and if feasible and resources permit, develop a car parking area on the north side of the Te Muri Stream, off the service road access, as shown on Map 7.2 involving:

- a) vehicle parking
- b) visitor information and emergency phone
- c) public toilets and water supply.

~~1613.~~ Seek amendments to the dog control policies and bylaws to prohibit dogs from Mahurangi East in order to protect breeding shore birds.

Tangata whenua

~~1714.~~ Recognise the special relationship of tangata whenua with the Mahurangi Regional Park through:

- a) acknowledging the relationship through a range of visitor services and infrastructures such as interpretation and tohu tangata whenua,
- b) consulting on the planning, protection, development and management of the park and the tangata whenua values they contain,
- c) investigating options with tangata whenua to enable them to exercise their role as kaitiaki over sites of significance, and
- d) supporting tangata whenua to undertake activities which enable them to provide for their hauora while sustaining the mauri of the park's natural and historic resources (refer to Part 9).

~~1815.~~ Ensure senior staff responsible for managing the park meet at least once a year with tangata whenua appointed kaitiaki (representatives) to discuss the annual work programme and the management actions outlined in Part 9.

Note: For an up to date list of iwi, hapū and/or marae contacts please refer to the council website.

Principal relationships

- ~~1916~~. Liaise with Rodney ~~District Council~~Local Board, adjoining landowners and the local community to ensure the planning, development and management of land adjoining Mahurangi Regional Park:
- a) protects and enhances the park values,
 - b) provides an integrated approach to pest animal and plant control programmes, ecological restoration programmes and recreation activities, and
 - c) improves the access to the park.
- ~~2017~~. In addition to the matters outlined in policy 19, liaise with Rodney ~~District Council~~Local Board specifically in relation to boating access and dog control.
- ~~2118~~. Liaise with the licensee of Vine House to ensure it is managed in accordance with the Vine House Conservation Plan 2001; and make it available to the public as part of the bach escape network.
- ~~2219~~. Support the Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Conservation and tangata whenua in promoting and enforcing fisheries regulations and enforce any council's control~~ban~~ of set netting from regional parks (refer to policy 13.6.1.5).

Special management zones

Sullivan's Bay

Sullivan's Bay is the main arrival area on the park. It is a small and constrained bay containing the main car parking, visitor facilities, a campground and the historic Sullivan Homestead which acts as a ranger residence and park depot. It is very popular with campers and as a destination for caravans. There is a need to rationalise the arrangement of facilities within the bay to accommodate the range of activities, and not detract from its natural charm as a beach location, including the visual impacts from the sea.

- ~~230~~. Manage Sullivan's Bay as a main arrival area for the park.
- ~~241~~. Review, in consultation with key stakeholders, the configuration and use of the arrival area at Sullivan's Bay, in relation to car parking, camping, day use activity and provision for campervans and caravans, as shown on Map 7.2 including:
- a) rationalising and upgrading the toilets facilities at Sullivan's Bay.

- b) managing the Sullivan's Bay campground and car parking areas to maintain the foreshore areas as open areas for communal use and reduce the visual impacts on the coastline and from the sea,
- c) reducing the capacity of the existing Sullivans Bay campground to 30 persons while investigating options to accommodate additional camping on the hill above the current campground and, once established, reduce the existing Sullivan's Bay campground to 20 persons.
- d) developing ~~designated areas for~~ a SCC campgroundervans and in the short term, moving campervans away from the foreshore parking spaces.

Scott Point

Scott Point, at the end of the Te Kapa Peninsula, contains land owned and managed by three public agencies; the council, Department of Conservation and Rodney District Council. It contains a wharf and landing and a boat ramp used by recreational boating and the shell fishing industry. The regional park land also contains the historic Scott Homestead and two houses, Ferguson House and Bailey Cottage, which are available for holiday rental as part of the bach escapes programme. The location acts as an access point for visitors to Mahurangi East.

Scott homestead was built by Thomas Scott jnr. in 1877-81. This former hotel and boarding house dates from a time before road access was developed to the Mahurangi, when the harbour was a hub of shipbuilding and timber milling activity. Today the Scott homestead is one of the heritage icons of the Mahurangi area, with which the local community has developed a strong sense of attachment.

Finding an appropriate use for the Scott Homestead that is consistent both with the retention of its heritage value and setting, while allowing public access to the grounds, has been an ongoing challenge. Fire egress and protection, structural issues and protection of the heritage fabric are amongst the constraints that restrict use of the upper level of the building. The limited car parking capacity in the locality also limits use options.

- 225. Manage Scott Point as an arrival area for Mahurangi East.
- 236. Prepare and implement a conservation plan for the setting of Scott Homestead, including the heritage fruit trees associated with the homestead.
- 247. Manage the Scott Homestead in accordance with the conservation plan and investigate appropriate public use for the homestead, including its possible use for overnight accommodation.

- 258. Formalise, in consultation with Rodney ~~District Council~~Local Board and Department of Conservation, the integrated management of the Department of Conservation land (including Casnell Island), local reserves at Scott Point and the use of Mahurangi East, with respect to pest animal and plant control, and the provision of recreational opportunities.
- 269. Investigate, in association with Rodney ~~District Council~~Local Board, the provision of additional car parking and toilet facilities to meet use at Scott Point and to service the Scott Homestead.
- 2730. Investigate removing the aging pine trees on the regional park land along the western side of Ridge Road and replace with appropriate species, following consultation with the ~~Heritage~~ New Zealand ~~Historic Places Trust~~ regarding archaeological sites in the area.
- 2831. Maintain public walking access along the beach to Scott Homestead and sign post and improve walking access between the Ferguson house, Bailey Cottage, the Scott Homestead and the adjoining Mahurangi Scenic Reserve (DOC).

17.7.5 Recreation and use activities

Permitted activities

The table below shows the permitted activities that are allowed on Mahurangi Regional Park, as outlined in section 13.3. It also outlines any permanent restrictions that will be applied to the permitted activities for this park. The council may also apply temporary restrictions to any permitted activities (refer to policy 13.3.1.2). Any temporary restrictions will be advertised in park brochures, signs or using other media.

If an activity is not listed in this table, it may be allowed as a controlled (see table below) or discretionary activity in terms of section 13.5, unless they are prohibited in terms of section 13.6 of this plan.

Permitted activities	Status and restrictions
Barbecues	Permitted at either facilities provided at Sullivan's Bay or portable gas barbecues subject to fire restrictions that may apply from time to time.

Permitted activities	Status and restrictions
Boat access	A boat launching ramp and trailer parking is available at Scott Point. Small craft, such as kayaks, can be hand launched at Sullivan Bay. Navigational Safety Bylaw 2008 applies.
Dogs	<p>Dogs are permitted on a lead;</p> <p>a) On the Cudlip Point Loop Track, except during lambing season (July, August and September inclusive).</p> <p>b) On Mita Bay beach and the coastal area around to Opahi Bay. Dogs can only access Mita Bay by boat, or by foot from Opahi Bay.</p> <p>c) At Scott Point and adjoining beaches: except between 9am and 7pm from the first Sunday in October to the 3rd Sunday in March.</p> <p>d) Mahurangi East park land and adjoining beaches.</p> <p>Temporary restrictions may apply.</p> <p>Dogs are prohibited from park land at Sullivans Bay and Te Muri <u>estuary and foreshore</u> and adjoining beaches at all times.</p> <p>Council will seek to have these policies amended (refer to policy 16 above).</p> <p>Dogs are subject to local authority dog control policies and bylaws which are subject to change. Reference should be made to the council's website.</p>
Informal individual, family or group activities.	Informal groups are limited to 75 persons in order to manage conflict with other recreation activities. Groups larger than 75 must obtain a discretionary activity consent.
Recreational cycling	Permitted on designated poled routes across farm land and park roads (refer to Maps 7.1 and 7.2) but temporary restrictions may apply on sites of significance to tangata whenua, sensitive archaeological sites and ecological areas; or to protect park values and to enable park operations such as pest control and lambing. Phytosanitary measures may be required when using tracks within kauri zones.

Permitted activities	Status and restrictions
Walking, tramping, running and orienteering	Permitted on designated tracks (refer to Maps 7.1 and 7.2) and council approved orienteering course) and open pasture areas but temporary restrictions may apply to: protect sites of significance to tangata whenua, sensitive archaeological sites and ecological areas; or to enable park operations such as lambing and pest control. Phytosanitary measures may be required when using tracks within kauri zones.

Controlled activities

The table below shows the controlled activities that are allowed on Mahurangi Regional Park, as outlined in section 13.4. It also outlines where information on permanent restrictions to controlled activities can be found. The council may also apply temporary restrictions to any controlled activities (refer to policy 13.4.1.2). Any temporary restrictions will be advertised in park brochures, signs or using other media.

Controlled activities require prior booking through the council.

If an activity is not listed in this table, it may be allowed as a discretionary activity in terms of section 13.5, unless they are prohibited in section 13.6 of this plan.

Controlled activities	Description of site (if applicable)	Restrictions and conditions
Baches	<p>Scott Point: Baileys Cottage (6 people) and Ferguson House (8 people).</p> <p>Mahurangi East: Vine House (6 8 people) and the Big Bay Bach (8-6 people).</p> <p>Subject to completion of improvements, Puhoi Cottage will be available at the Puhoi River entrance (across from Wenderholm Regional Park)</p>	<p>Conditions on booking confirmation.</p> <p>Note the Vine House is available for hire by the general public and is under licence to the Auckland Canoe Club.</p>
Campervans and caravans	Sullivan's Bay arrival area (10 vehicles) until a SCC Vehicle	Requires self-containment

	Campground has been constructed with capacity for no more than 20 vehicles. SCC campervans and caravans will not be allowed along the foreshore in the Sullivan's Bay car parking area.	certificates in car parks. Further conditions on booking confirmation or camping passes.
Camping	Vehicle based campground: Sullivan's Bay (30 people), Back-country campgrounds: Te Muri (80 people) , Mita Bay (40 people) and Lagoon Bay (20 people).	Conditions on booking confirmation or camping passes.
Meeting venues	The Scott Homestead and grounds are available for meetings, weddings and other celebrations, by arrangement with the council	Listed in Recreation Conditions on booking confirmation. Note: special conditions apply to the Scott Homestead because of its heritage values. 100 people can be booked in during the period March to November inclusive and 30 people during the peak summer period December to February inclusive.

Leases and licenses

The table below identifies the leases and licenses operating on Mahurangi Regional Park when this management plan was adopted.

Licences may be surrendered and new ones may be created during the term of this plan. For an up to date list of leases and licences please refer to please refer to the council website.

Holder	Type	Expiry date	Notes
Auckland Canoe Club	Licence to occupy Vine House	2014	Occupation limited to specific days of the year.

17.7.6 Monitoring

The council will monitor aspects of Mahurangi Regional Park in accordance with section 7.7. In addition to the standard monitoring programme, the council will undertake specific monitoring as follows:

1. Monitor the viability of the coastal birdlife, such as NZ dotterels and little blue penguins.

Attachment C - Summary of initial feedback on Te Muri

September 2015

Notification of public consultation on the intention to undertake a variation to the Regional Parks Management Plan to include Te Muri was undertaken in mid July 2015.

Information about the consultation went live on the Shape Auckland website on 13 July and public notices went in the NZ Herald, the North Shore Times and Rodney Times on 23 July and in the Mahurangi Matters on 5 August.

Key stakeholders were sent an email advising them of the project on 28 July and letters were sent to local residents within a 1km to 1.5km radius of the park in late July.

The closing date for the consultation was 19 August 2015.

Comments were received from 140 people via emails, of which 88 of these were on a pro-forma that was initiated by the Mahurangi Magazine.

Submissions on behalf of groups were received from:

- Department of Conservation
- NZ Horse Network
- Horse Connections NZ
- Auckland Tramping Club
- Puhoi Canoes
- NZ Walking Access Commission
- Mahurangi Action Inc
- West Auckland District Tramping Club
- Friends of Regional Parks

Three members of the Schischka family provided comments on the future of the park.

In addition a petition on Change.Org was organised by Horse Connections NZ and had 1,046 signatories.

The following summarises the feedback from the emails, breaking it down into themes.

Park in general

The parks sense of isolation was mentioned by 94 people with them suggesting this is what made the park special and should be preserved. This was a comment made predominantly by people sending the pro-forma noting *"I greatly value the sense of splendid isolation that Te Muri currently affords and consider a coastal trail a reasonable means by which many more people could enjoy the new regional parkland, without losing this rare and precious quality"*.

Other comments included:

Te Muri offers a special and increasingly rare opportunity to give Aucklanders the benefits of visiting a beautiful peaceful coastal area that is largely untouched by the intrusions of city life although comparatively close to the city centre.

One of Te Muri's greatest assets is its ability to make you forget you are anywhere else, and it feels a million miles from Auckland.

Give people the experience and benefits of visiting a pristine beach and coastal zone that retains its natural beauty and tranquility and is suitable for use by people of all ages.

Create Auckland's equivalent of New Chums (or Wainuiototo) Beach that has been voted one of the Top 20 beaches in the world and listed as one of the 101 Must Dos' for Kiwis.

Connecting Te Muri – the Mahurangi Coastal Trail / Te Araroa

The development of a coastal trail or non-vehicle connection between the parks was supported by 101 submitters. This is the main thrust of Mahurangi Action Inc. and the pro-forma noted "*I believe that a Mahurangi Coastal Trail should be developed immediately as the initial means of providing public access to the new Te Muri parkland, and that access by private vehicle should only be considered in the event the trail is little used.*"

Mahurangi Action Inc. provided "the Mahurangi Coastal Trail, Technical Document for Discussion". This outlines the options for crossing the Puhoi River and Te Muri Estuary with cost estimates to deliver the bridging options and some of the track developments and upgrades.

Promoting accessibility by public transport was supported by 90 submitters and was included on the prop-forma. One submitter noted it is currently very difficult to access regional parks without a car. He suggested the current bus service to Waiwera could be extended to Wenderholm.

It was also suggested that the coastal trail would be a strategic greenway link.

The potential to utilise the park to provide a section of the Te Araroa was also mentioned by 93 submitters, these were mainly from those using the pro-forma, who proposed use of Hungry Creek Rd and the farm road as the missing terrestrial link from Puhoi to Wenderholm.

Puhoi Canoes proposed in addition to access from Wenderholm and Mahurangi that access be provided from Puhoi with: *parking at the Puhoi Village Domain carpark and entering by foot/horseback/bicycle/ to Te Muri by extension of the already formed Te Araroa Trail along the northern side of the Puhoi River utilising public land between the farmland and Puhoi River.* Their submission details how this connection could be made.

DOC's submission also proposed the possibility of providing walking access between Wenderholm and Puhoi along the river, noting this would not require a bridge over the Puhoi River.

Vehicle Access to the Park

This was a strong theme in the feedback with 79 submissions, related to the pro-forma noting this should not be developed unless the coastal trail is not well used. Of note is that some of the pro-forma submissions had modified this comment stating they did not wish to see any vehicle access provided to the park.

Seventeen people stated no car access should be provided to the park, while 5 specifically stated Hungry Creek Rd should not be used as an access point. Two of these were residents along Hungry Creek Road that noted the road was narrow, windy, unstable and therefore unsafe for a large number of vehicles and that the Mahurangi West turn-off was far better suited to greater volumes of traffic.

Friends of Regional Parks submission also noted vehicles on this road should be limited to park service ones and that the road was unsuitable for public access without significant upgrade to both the road and the SH1 turn off. Further comments included the cost of upgrading the road would be more expensive than providing access through the development of the coastal trail.

Eight people mentioned providing limited access to the park with most suggestions stating this should be kept back from the beach along with parking and only to provide access to walking, cycling and bridle opportunities. It was noted emphasis should be on developing non-vehicular access so visitors have a remote experience.

A member of the Schischka family noted Hungry Creek road has been improved in the last few years and suggested use of a one way system controlled by traffic lights to deal with the blind corners.

Other comments included:

Provide vehicle access only for operational purposes or to get to the baches.

A water taxi service or something similar between Orewa, Waiwera, Wenderholm, TeMuri and Mahurangi West would be fantastic!

Please DO NOT allow car access or large scale car parking in this area - it would spoil the natural beauty of the area and will have a large impact financially and environmentally. Already most of our regional parks are affected by too many visitor numbers and this can take away from their appeal. I no longer visit Wenderholm or Long Bay in the summer months as they are far too busy!

The most important feature of Te Muri is to maintain the beach's relative isolation. This could be achieved by continuing to restrict access by road. This is a pristine coastal environment remarkably close to Auckland - I would hate to see it become full of cars like so many other beaches in and around Auckland.

Auckland has a significant number of beaches including more than 12 in the 26 Regional Parks, that provide for people who need to, or wish to, access them by private vehicle. The Management Plan for Te Muri is a chance to create a different and special experience for visitors to have greater contact with nature without the intrusion of vehicles.

The idea of giving a special experience for visitors by making access to the park by non motorised means only deserves serious consideration and if there is any ultimate provision for some public vehicle access it we suggest it should be kept well back from the coastal zone and be visually and audibly non-intrusive in the overall park and avoid the use of Hungry Creek Road where it runs down the spine of the park as this would be intrusive right through the park.

Only 2 people actually requested the provision of vehicle access to the beach or campground.

Mahurangi Action Inc

A detailed submission was received from this group with the main thrust of this being the development of a Mahurangi Coast Trail. In summary the submission made the following points:

1. Propose three parks function as one contiguous park and consideration be given to using the title Mahurangi Regional Park.
2. Retain Te Muri's sense of isolation by keeping it car free, provide picnic areas adjacent to but screened from the beach. Could include access for vehicles catering for those with disabilities. Reduce obtrusiveness of Peter Schischka's house; in long term demolish this, but medium term convert for public use such as a visitor centre.
3. Mahurangi Coastal Trail should be developed immediately as the initial means of providing public access to the park, including the Judge Arnold Turner bridge across the Puhoi River. They suggest vehicle access should only be provided in the unlikely event the trail is not well used.
4. Explore options to extend public transport to the parks from the Waiwera terminus.
5. The proposed Puhoi-Te Muri section of Te Araroa is of overwhelming local, regional and national significance. Hungry Creek Rd and the scenic ridge farm road must be protected from non-essential vehicle use and its panoramas protected.
6. Remote camping is a proven need at Te Muri and there is considerable scope to both improve the experience by decentralising and expanding the activity.
7. Propose trialling a group shelter, particularly to encourage use by schools.
8. Encourage horse-riding to and through the park, rather than as a place to transport horses into. Investigate sites such as Spaniard Creek, as location for charitable-trust-owned stables supplying mounts to park visitors.
9. Investigate the role indigenous forestry as a working-farm-park model.
10. Take practical steps to protect the spit and urupa from sea-level rise, with particular emphasis on the dune and back-dune vegetation.
11. Suggest consulting iwi over establishment of marine reserve off coast of Wenderholm and Te Muri, with the view to a wider exploration of Mahurangi marine reserve concept forming part of this planning process.

Horse riding

The petition signed by 1,046 people included the following text:

I am writing in support of including horse riding at the new Te Muri Regional Park. Having this available to horse riders provides a safe and beautiful place to enjoy. Te Muri Regional Park is promised as a farm park with horse riding. Historically this area was connected to Puhoi, Waiwera, and Warkworth by bridleways and coach routes. Rodney Local Board we ask that you begin implementation of the Rodney Bridleways strategy as part of this park opening. There are many unformed legal roads in the adjacent area that can be used as bridleways, rural roads with berms, and potentially other options will become available through the building of the proposed puhoi-warkworth motorway. We want Rodney local board bridleways, and Auckland Council regional greenways planners to work together with walking, horse riding and cycling groups to connect these regional parks with the adjacent hinterland. Create a shared trails system to connect these regional parks to nearby areas will create a great local, regional and tourism asset. Overnight grazing options for horse owners to camp, would make this asset unbeatable for Auckland.

In addition people could make additional comments to support their signature. These predominantly reinforced the need for people to have safe areas to ride, that roads were now too dangerous, that east coast riding opportunities were scarce and that riders did not want to drive long distances to have places to ride. Atui Creek is too far to travel to on regular basis. Comments also included the need to have access to free places and that Woodhill had massively increased its fees.

In addition there were suggestions that the regional park needed to be connected to other areas, reducing the need for parking and that not all could afford horse floats. There were also comments that farmers are no longer allowing access to riders due to OSH regulations and that large grass verges are becoming non-existent. A number of people commented on the resources that have gone in to support cycling and suggested horse riding should be given more consideration as part of New Zealand's heritage and that bridle trails were being lost to cycle ways. One suggested Rodney had more horses per capita than any other region and another suggested the development of horse trails would be good for the equine tourism industry. Only a couple specifically mentioned the provision of camping with horses.

In addition to the petition, 123 submitters noted their support for horse riding on the park. NZ Horse Network's submission fully supported the coastal trail proposal joining the three parks, keeping parking areas as small as possible and using natural surfaces for any trail development to retain the rural amenity. They requested providing for camping with horses through planning for a horse paddock near Sullivans Bay campground, and to allow access to stockyards/paddock and woolshed.

They requested access to beaches for horses and riders to swim. Fencing should include races which can remain open for the majority of the year rather than funnelling all recreational use through paddocks, and therefore creating blockages to recreation (gates, and farming activities). They suggested no unprotected cattle stops, use of lift latch gates or installation of simple mounting blocks at all gates and requested council stop using bike humps. They also suggested the park should be connected to surrounding area via unformed roads and the creation of easements for shared trails.

A member of the Schischka family noted the property is well suited to horse riding, but suggested having at least one horse dedicated track, to avoid conflicts with other users. They suggested a dedicated horse area on the flats, noting pony club camps are an integral part of the pony club system in NZ and locations are getting harder to find.

Another Schischka family member noted Te Muri was farmed for many years from the Puhoi River side of the property and stock were provided access from Wenderholm to Sullivans Bay. She suggests river access from the Puhoi River be retained by placement of gates at selected points for occasional use, but notes need local knowledge due to soft areas on the mud flats. Parking for horse floats/trucks could be at the Te Muri park entrance near the cattle yards and airstrip, or down on the flats by the sheep shed or any other area on the flats. Hours of use by floats/ trucks could be set to reduce the impact on other park users.

Other comments included: Great place to hold weekend long treks, possible future events centre and have camping similar to Woodhill. Include accessible float /truck parking facilities and one noted the lack of implementation of the Bridleways Strategy.

Mountain Biking

Provision of cycling access to the park and catering for mountain bikes was mentioned by 20 people or organisations.

A submission from the Auckland Mountain Biking Club requested the provision of dedicated mountain biking trails, designed by experienced bike trail builders. These should not necessarily be targeted at first time of beginner riders, but also cater for experienced riders with several loop trails from centrally located car park with options of easier riding grade

and/or by-passes for the more challenging obstacles. The desired length of trails is up to 20km in order to generate return trips to the park.

Other comments included: if bike accessible would be excellent addition to the National Cycleway with access to government funding and install a bike rack at the Wenderholm bus stop.

A couple of people did not support bikes being provided for on the park; noting bikes especially would disturb native birds and that bikers and walkers don't mix.

A member of the Schischka family noted it would be best to keep horse riding and mountain bikes separate due to the flight nature of some horses. They suggested introducing a rotating day of use system for conflicting activities.

Camping

9 submitters mentioned camping, mainly supporting the retention of this as a remote experience.

Comments included: could increase camping but keep basic. Camping should be tucked into areas to minimise its visibility and the impact of supporting infrastructure. Improve remote camping, by decentralising and expanding the activity. Provide backpack campsites including one accessible for canoeists near creek on north boundary.

One person suggested upgrading and expanding the camping facilities, and a couple suggested providing vehicle access to the campground.

The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) has informally confirmed they would like the plan to provide overnight parking space for self-contained campervans.

Other comments

More native planting was supported by seven submissions with the suggestion areas of farmland be re-vegetated and for walking and cycle trails to be integrated with this. DOC noted stock should be excluded from estuarine areas and most erosion prone slopes as a priority. FOR Parks suggested the enhancement of the existing botanical and bio-diversity of the park and that in the long term exotic forestry areas should be replaced with native plantings. One submitter suggested improving stream quality.

Four submissions specifically mentioned the retention of farming and the opportunity this provided for the public to experience a working farm.

Only three people mentioned the bach potential suggesting the retention of existing buildings for rent or ensuring vehicle access to these and one requested walking access to the Puhoi bach.

The views were noted by five submissions with suggestions view shafts be identified and protected from vegetation re-growth, particularly from tracks and along the ridgelines to retain the open feeling and sense of spaciousness in the park. DOC noted the landscape should be protected from the intrusion of buildings on the ridges or skyline. One suggested a viewing information panel at the highest point could provide additional interest for visitors, however it would be preferable for it to be not visible from the beach area. Another suggested placing benches on the hills so people can enjoy the views.

Dogs were mentioned by three people who requested these still be banned from the beach, noting this would protect the Dotterels. Seven submissions specifically mentioned the protection of the dotterels.

In addition to the submissions specifically supporting the development of bridle trails and mountain bike tracks, a number of submitters also mentioned the development of a track network. FOR Parks suggested the creation of a loop walking track with combination of existing farm tracks, stock tracks and natural contours, and suggested the provision of multi-day walking and camping activities.

A couple of submissions noted the park should be classified as Class 1 park. FOR Parks noted this would give priority to nature based recreation activities with large events, organised sport activity, leases and built structures being non-complying activities and suggested one off events including filming, need to be defined and limited to a few each year with a requirement for environment and cultural Impact assessments. Another submitter suggested this classification to *minimise the structures, buildings and size of groups using the park. Wenderholm, Mahurangi and Tawharanui all provide large group facilities with parking etc. There is not a shortage of regional parks, so maybe this could be kept smaller and restricted to small group activities.*

Other comments included:

Continue the encouragement of public participation in caring for their Regional Parks and their sense of connection with the parks.

Create a kayaking trail that includes Te Muri as a destination.

Include info on conservation measures and interpretation of historical features / Showcase history of Maori and European occupation.

Keep boat launching out.

Would hate to see Te Muri become another Sullivan's Bay or Wenderholm.

Suggest hold open day for all submitters to input into plan.

