

## **ARK IN THE PARK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

### **PARTIES**

- i. Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. including its Waitakere Branch (Forest & Bird).
- ii. Auckland Council (Council).

### **PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT**

This document sets out the formal agreement between Forest and Bird and Auckland Council to work together to maintain and restore the mauri and indigenous biodiversity of Te Wao nui o Tiriwa (Waitakere Ranges) as set out in the Vision and Objectives.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Ark in the Park has a current area of approximately 2100 hectares, predominantly in the Waitakere River catchment and partially in the Nihotupu catchment of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park (the Project Area). The Project is being undertaken as a partnership between the Council and Forest & Bird, with the support of Te Kawerau a Maki. This agreement does not cover potential activities outside of Regional Parkland.

Forest & Bird is an Incorporated Society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 with objectives of protecting nature and natural landscapes. The Society was formed in 1923 and the Project was initiated by the Waitakere Branch of the Society which continues to play an important role. Project volunteers now come from across Auckland.

Auckland Council is the local governing authority for the Auckland Region. It was formed in November 2010 from an amalgamation of the seven district authorities and the Auckland Regional Council. Auckland Council has a mandate under a range of statutory instruments and planning/strategic documents to ensure biodiversity is flourishing and treasured across the Auckland region.

## **VISION**

The Ark in the Park Open Sanctuary Project's (the Project) vision is to enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functioning within the Project Area. By doing so, the Project aims to showcase how natural values can be protected and enhanced through community involvement, interagency co-operation and public commitment.

The Ark in the Park Open Sanctuary Project (the Project) aims to enhance indigenous biodiversity in the Waitakere Ranges, while conserving the natural, recreational, historical and cultural features of the Ranges.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the relationship between the parties are to:

- work together to maintain and restore the indigenous biodiversity of Te Wao nui o Tiriwa (Waitakere Ranges);
- advocate for the project;
- engage Auckland communities and tangata whenua in conservation activities within the project area;
- acknowledge the role of Te Kawerau a Maki as mana whenua for Te Wao nui o Tiriwa;
- develop and implement a Restoration Plan and an Annual Work Plan including agreed funding contributions.

## **PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES**

The Parties acknowledge a commitment to the concept of partnering and agree to adhere to the following partnership principles. These are to:

- act towards each other honestly and in good faith;
- communicate openly and in a timely fashion;
- work in a co-operative and constructive manner with respect, good faith, trust and integrity towards the other party;

- maintain a no surprises policy that keeps each other informed of both potentially contentious issues and issues that may have a significant impact on the current and ongoing operations of the Project;
- recognise each other's responsibilities to its stakeholders and the autonomy and independence of each party;
- encourage quality and innovation to achieve positive results for the project community as a whole;
- acknowledge that cultural diversity is a strength and promote an inclusive approach;
- endeavour to make decisions by consensus;
- take into account the Treaty of Waitangi;
- be consistent with the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act and operative Regional Parks Management Plan.

## **GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Restoration and Annual Work Plan**

The project will be delivered through an Annual Work Plan derived from the long term Restoration Plan.

The Governance Group will report to the Council and the Executive of Forest & Bird on the project's achievements during the previous year.

The Restoration Plan sets out the long term ecological restoration programme outcomes. The Annual Work Plan sets out the details of the work for the year, who is to undertake the work, and how the work will be funded. Start and completion dates for significant tasks will also be included to aid co-ordination of the Work Plan with other programmes of the parties.

Once the Governance Group has approved the Restoration Plan and the Annual Work Plan, any funding requirements will be submitted for approval and/or amendment with the Council's draft annual plan and Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for the following year, in accordance with the Council's Annual Plan approval process.

## **Annual Report**

The Manager will, in conjunction with council representatives, prepare an annual report to the Governance Group on progress against the Annual Work Plan for that year.

## **CONTRIBUTION OF THE PARTIES**

Forest & Bird will provide:

- Financial and “In kind” contribution to the project, as appropriate and defined by the Annual Work Plan budget and subject to funding;
- A Manager and other staff as required (subject to funding) who will manage and work on the Project in conjunction with the Auckland Council Western Principal Ranger in accord with the Annual Work Plan and the Restoration Plan as approved by the Ark in the Park Committee and Governance Group;
- Capacity building and development of community input, including that of tangata whenua, through the conservation and outreach activities of the Project;
- Relevant nominees to the Governance Group, Ark Management Committee and other meetings;
- Regular reporting to Auckland Council and other relevant stakeholders.

Auckland Council will provide:

- Financial and “In kind” contribution (including facilities and equipment) to the Project, as approved annually and defined by the Annual Work Plan budget;
- Staff resources (Western Principal Ranger and relevant staff from Regional Parks, Biodiversity and Biosecurity) who will contribute to the Project, in accordance with the Annual Work Plan and the Restoration Plan as approved by the Ark in the Park Committee and Governance Group. The provision of staff will be subject to operational availability;
- Capacity building and development of community input, including that of tangata whenua, through the conservation and outreach activities of the Project;

- Relevant nominees/staff to attend Governance Group, Ark Management Committee and other meetings as appropriate.

### **Governance Group**

The Governance Group will oversee and review the overall direction of the Project, approve the Annual Work Plan and long term Restoration Plan, and recommend the approval of the plans (including funding implications) to Council's Environment, Climate Change and Natural Heritage Committee and the appropriate governance bodies of Auckland Council and Forest & Bird.

The Governance Group will meet twice yearly or as may be otherwise agreed between the parties. Membership of the Governance Group will be:

- Two nominees from the Governing Body of the Auckland Council
- One nominee from the Auckland Council Waitakere Ranges Local Board
- One nominee of the Executive of Forest & Bird
- Two nominees of the Waitakere Branch of Forest & Bird

Other participants may be invited to attend meetings of the Governance Group from time to time with the prior agreement of the parties.

### **Ark Management Committee**

The Ark Management Committee shall:

- oversee the development and implementation of the Annual Work Plan;
- be responsible for the ongoing review of Annual Work Plan progress;
- consider any issues or matters that arise that may require an amendment to the Annual Work Plan and/or budget.
- normally meet two monthly or as agreed among its members
- report to the Governance Group.

The membership of the Ark Management Committee shall consist of:

- One person appointed by the Chief Executive, Forest & Bird;
- Two persons appointed by the Waitakere Branch of Forest & Bird;
- Three persons appointed by Auckland Council's Biodiversity, Biosecurity and Parks Managers;
- Two persons elected by the Ark Forum as the volunteers' representatives

A Chairperson will be elected by the Management Committee from its members at its first meeting. The Chairperson shall serve for a term of 2 years. No member shall be eligible for election as Chairperson for more than two successive terms.

Other participants may be invited to attend meetings of the Ark Management Committee from time to time with the prior agreement of the parties.

### **Ark Forum**

Forest & Bird will convene an `Ark Forum', open to project volunteers and supporters, which will be a conduit for ideas and development of the volunteers support base. The Ark Forum will elect two representatives of the volunteers to serve on the Ark Management Committee.

### **Ark in the Park Manager**

The Manager will be employed by the Chief Executive of Forest & Bird and will be responsible to the Chief Executive for the management of the Project in accordance with the Annual Work Plan.

The Manager, in consultation with Council representatives, Forest and Bird management and other stakeholders, will prepare the Restoration Plan and Annual Work Plan for the Project. The Manager will be responsible for all other Forest & Bird staff and contractors employed on the Project and for the coordination and oversight of the work of the project volunteers.

The Manager will report two monthly to the Ark Management Committee on progress in the implementation of the Annual Work Plan and budget.

The Manager will meet regularly with the Council's Western Principal Ranger or his/her nominee, to review progress and any matters arising of mutual concern.

### **Other Staff**

Forest & Bird, with support from the Auckland Council as agreed from time to time, will employ other staff and contractors necessary to undertake the Annual Work Plan. This will significantly involve volunteer coordination. All staff working on the project will be, in accordance with Forest & Bird's constitution, employed by the Chief Executive and will report to the Ark in the Park Manager and be bound by the policies and procedures of Forest & Bird.

### **Western Principal Ranger**

The Western Principal Ranger will retain the ultimate responsibility for the management and administration of the Park, including the Project Area within the Park, at all times.

### **Council Project Coordinator**

The Auckland Council will appoint a Council Project Coordinator to liaise with the Manager and Western Principal Ranger to coordinate Council participation in the project. This may include coordinating Governance Group meetings, providing biodiversity input /advice and coordinating the Technical Advisory Group.

### **Technical Advisory Group**

A Technical Advisory Group will provide specialist advice on ecological issues, pest management, community engagement and other relevant matters, as required. The Technical Advisory Group will include a representative of each of the parties and additional experts as agreed from time to time to provide advice on relevant technical aspects of the Project.

### **Corporate Fund Raising**

Any significant corporate funding or sponsorship arrangement for the Project may only be entered into with the prior agreement of the Council.

## **Publicity**

Media communications about the Project will be in accordance with the joint Ark in the Park Communications Protocol.

## **Health and Safety**

The Manager will, in conjunction with the Western Principal Ranger, prepare and review a Health and Safety plan to cover all activities undertaken by project volunteers, contractors, and employees of the parties while they are working on the project. The Manager will review the H&S Plan at least once each year and will amend it, as and when appropriate.

The Society will ensure that its members, employees, agents and volunteers are aware of the provisions of the Council HS Plan and the Society HS Plan and the Society's hazards management programme.

A hazard register and accident register will be maintained and all accidents/incidents, including near misses, will be recorded, investigated and reported by the Manager to the Western Principal Ranger.

## **Pest Control Methods and Safety**

The Manager will follow all product licence and/or label requirements and ensure industry best practice guidelines are implemented for pest management programmes. Auckland Council will keep the Manager up-to-date on industry best practice guidelines and provide advice on suitable pest management methodologies.

## **Insurance**

Forest and Bird will maintain public liability insurance at an appropriate level of cover in relation to the Project and the Society's activities in the Park



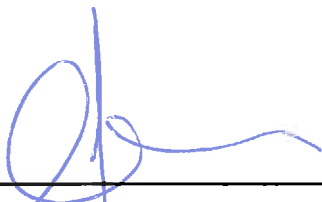
**Use of Council Facilities and Equipment and Council Services**

The Council may make facilities and equipment available for use for the Project with prior approval of the Western Principal Ranger, or his/her delegated representative(s), in relation to actions in the Annual Work Plan.

**Term**

This Agreement will commence on 25 February 2014  
and terminate on 25 February 2024.

**SIGNED BY**



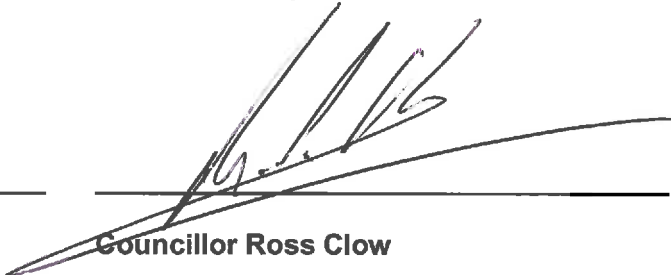
**Hone McGregor**



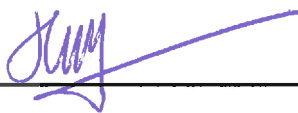
**Councillor Wayne Walker**



**John Staniland**



**Councillor Ross Clow**



**Robert Woolf**



**Saffron Toms**

**Date:**

25 February 2014

