



Vegetation Management

The natural environment, particularly the vegetation, plays an important role in defining the character of Te Henga Park. Planting has the potential to enhance the visual character, whilst assisting in the management of the sand dune system and ensuring that natural ecosystems are maintained. Vegetation management is a key component of the Dune Management Study.

Objective 5

- To use appropriate planting and design to enhance the natural environment of Te Henga Park.

Explanation:

Numerous opportunities exist for enhancing and expanding the ecological values of the Park. Planting programmes within the Park need to be consistent and in keeping with that which naturally occurs (or occurred), within the local coastal area of the Waitakere Ecological District.

Policies:

1. To establish a programme for increasing the level of planting at Te Henga Park in line with an established vegetation strategy and the 'Sand Dune Management Study – Option 4' (Bellingham 1995), commissioned by Waitakere City Council.
2. To ensure that only appropriate, eco-sourced native plants will be used in all plantings, in keeping with Waitakere City Council's goal of promoting native biodiversity in sand dune revegetation programmes.
3. To ensure plants are located within their natural habitat types (e.g wetland species in wetlands).
4. To prevent the planting of beds of amenity plantings or exotic species (including those species not native to Waitakere Ecological District) within the Park.

Access and Use

This section deals with general issues such as levels of use at Te Henga Park and provision for different leisure needs. There is also the need to provide for the needs of the local community and the wider community who may have different requirements. More specific issues dealt with include providing access for the physically challenged and use by organised groups.

Objective 6

- To provide for a diverse range of leisure activities at Te Henga Park which serve the local and wider communities, while respecting the natural amenity of the area.

Explanation:

Te Henga Park provides a high quality experience for a wide range of users both from Waitakere City and from around the region. Any future development should respect the natural values of the Park and provide a recreation experience based on the unique environment of Te Henga.

The local community have open space and recreation demands which can be met at Te Henga Park. These demands should be accommodated in a way that achieves the local community's recreation aspirations but also enhances the natural and wilderness values appreciated by all users. An example is the need for an organised play area for local children, one that does not copy the standard example erected in many urban situations, but is compatible with and sympathetic to, the local park experience.

Policies:

1. The Park will remain as a freely available, open space for the informal recreational use and enjoyment of all visitors.
2. Appropriate signage will be developed with community input, preferably by local artisans.
3. All activities which may affect informal recreation use of the Park will only be permitted where they comply with the following conditions and with the permission of the Parks Asset Manager:





- Events must be of public interest and value
 - Events must be consistent with informal recreation/education objectives and the landscape values of the Park
 - There must be no conflict with the ecological values of the Park
 - There must be no long-term occupation or utilisation of any part of the Park
 - There must be no conflict with other Council policies
4. All activities shall comply with all relevant Council By-laws.
 5. A location within the Park has been identified for a community 'fae' style structure, which may be removable during the winter months. This will provide a community focus, and a venue for local events and performances, which provides both shelter and shade.
 6. Waitakere City Council Parks will inform the Te Henga/Bethells Community Group about proposed events and dates to ensure that there is no conflicting event organisation at the Park.

Objective 7

- To ensure that all groups in the community find an acceptable and appropriate level of access to Te Henga Park.

Explanation:

Groups within the community who may require greater levels of improved access include the elderly, the physically challenged and those with young children. The vulnerable nature of the sand dune system at Te Henga also requires that access and development be managed in a careful way to minimise damage and to maximise potential repair area.

Policies:

1. To improve the general level of access to the beach in a carefully managed way, maximising the aesthetic sense of arrival at the beach for pedestrians, by minimising parking at the main pedestrian entrance ways.
2. To restrict public access to the beach to a defined pedestrian route to avoid unnecessary damage to the sand dune system.
3. To encourage where possible, the development

of appropriate access for people with disabilities, allowing for all natural surfaces.

Objective 8

- To ensure community organisations such as the Surf Life Saving Patrol are encouraged to continue at Te Henga Park and to be an effective part of the Park community.

Explanation:

The Surf Life Saving Club (Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol Inc), performs a valuable community function, for both the regional, and the local, residential communities. The continued presence of such a community organisation ensures safer use of the beach.

Policies:

1. To continue to support the existence of the Surf Life Saving Club (Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol Inc), in the Park.

Objective 9

- To ensure that vehicle access through Te Henga Park is retained for private properties to the north and south of the Park and/or for emergency purposes.

Explanation:

There is a long history of Rights Of Way through the Park for a number of private properties at both the northern and southern ends of Te Henga Park and the beach. The Park and beach are the only practicable means of gaining access to these properties and any restrictions on vehicle access should be exclusive of these access requirements.

Much attention has been given to the re-design of the public car park, resulting in the one-way system now in place. Parking has been restricted to designated areas to deal with demands.

Policies:

1. That solid and secure vehicle barriers are maintained at access points to ensure beach access is restricted to residents, Surf Club members and emergency vehicles.
2. Car parking shall be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for effective management of Park users.

