

**Auckland Domain**  
Management Plan 1993

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## **Introduction**

### **The Auckland Domain and its role**

The Auckland Domain has formed an integral component of the City of Auckland since 1840. Prior to European settlement the area was part of a history of Maori occupation and use on the Isthmus. In the more than 150 years of the city's existence the citizens of Auckland have found pleasure in the wide open space and cultivated nature of the Domain. In addition the Domain has been the site of many events and activities significant to the city and the nations history. These events have rendered the landscape of the Domain rich in history which is both visible above ground and also below ground.

The Auckland Domain is classified by Auckland City as a "Metropolitan Park". It is of unique quality in relation to other city parks and reserves because of its location, size, physical attributes and features. Management strategies proposed in this plan will encourage appropriate future development, and will be supported by sufficient statutory protection to ensure the Domain retains these qualities in the future. In practice the Domain has heritage, cultural, landscape, geological and institutional values which spread beyond the region at least to the top half of the North Island. Furthermore, the Domain is one of the significant urban parks within New Zealand.

The Auckland Domain is today bounded by railway land and Parnell in the North and East, Stanley Street and Grafton Road in the north and west and Park Road, Carlton Gore Road and Titoki Street to the south. The Auckland Hospital is the most dominant adjoining activity sitting adjacent to the Park Road entrance to the Domain. It is not commonly recognised that the Domain's boundary includes areas occupied under lease by the Auckland Bowling Club, the ASB Tennis Centre and part of Carlaw Park, on the Stanley Street frontage, and the Parnell Tennis Club on the Titoki Street frontage. Part of the Domain was taken for military hospital purposes during the Second World War. This area remains hospital carpark and the site of the previous Children's Wards.

Recognised features of the Domain are the Auckland War memorial Museum, the Wintergardens and Fernery, duck ponds and kiosk, sports grounds, grandstand, nurseries and formal gardens.

### **The legislative basis for the Domain**

The Auckland Domain is administered by Auckland City through the Hobson Eastern Bays area office with the guidance of Recreation and Community Development Committee under the Auckland Domain Act 1987, which consolidated and amended the original 1893 legislation, the Auckland City Consolidated Bylaw 1991 and the operative District Plan.

### **How the Domain Plan was developed**

During the preparation of the plan public participation was sought in three ways; through newspaper advertisements for a written response, through an on site survey and through a workshop or respondents. The public response regarding the desired future and management of the Domain was very clear, is outlined fully in the Appendix to the resource document, and can be summarised as:

- 1 Do not develop a grand plan of change. Provide a guide for future management.
- 2 Respect cultural values, both Maori and European, and protect cultural features and sites.

- 3 Ensure that the Domain user has precedence in transport and parking terms.
- 4 Provide for more theme planting.
- 5 Continue to provide for team sport and informal recreation pursuits.
- 6 Continue to improve the relationship with surrounding activity.

It is from this basis that the plan has been developed.

### **The plan strategy**

The strategy for the Plan is developed to respond to a number of principles drawn from the consultation process, the existing legislation, the District Plan review and the experience of those responsible for day to day management of the Domain.

The principles are that the plan:

- 1 **Seeks to guide management of the Domain and its existing qualities, values and activities.**
- 2 **Provides for public access and recreational use, enjoyment and understanding of the Domain while ensuring the protection of the physical, natural, ecological, historical cultural values contained within it.**
- 3 **Ensures that appropriate pedestrian access is available to all parts of the Domain.**
- 4 **Provides for appropriate vehicular access favouring the Domain user and the pedestrian. Traffic management improvements, not extensions or increases in the system, will be established.**
- 5 **Encourages the conservation and protection of significant historical buildings and structures to protect their historical integrity whilst recognising their function. Building development or extension will be limited and only approved in that context.**
- 6 **Ensures that vegetation will be managed to continues important historical vegetation patterns within the Domain.**
- 7 **Provides for any new development, use or activity, or management decision to be assessed in relation to:**
  - **its necessity to be located within the Domain, its impact on the immediate area and on the Domain as a whole**
  - **the need to protect cultural, historic and geological values**

The adjoining structure plan outlines in graphic form the management principles and actions proposed.

From these principles the Auckland Domain will be managed through policy developed under this Domain Plan in respect to the following single objective.

**The Auckland Domain will be managed and conserved to maintain and enhance its cultural historic natural and volcanic landscape values and to continue to provide for appropriate recreation as a premier park in Auckland City and the wider region for the enjoyment of all people.**

All policy in this plan is directed to achieving this objective. This objective and this plan will form the basis for the administration of the Domain and provide the basis for the assessment of any proposals which affect it.

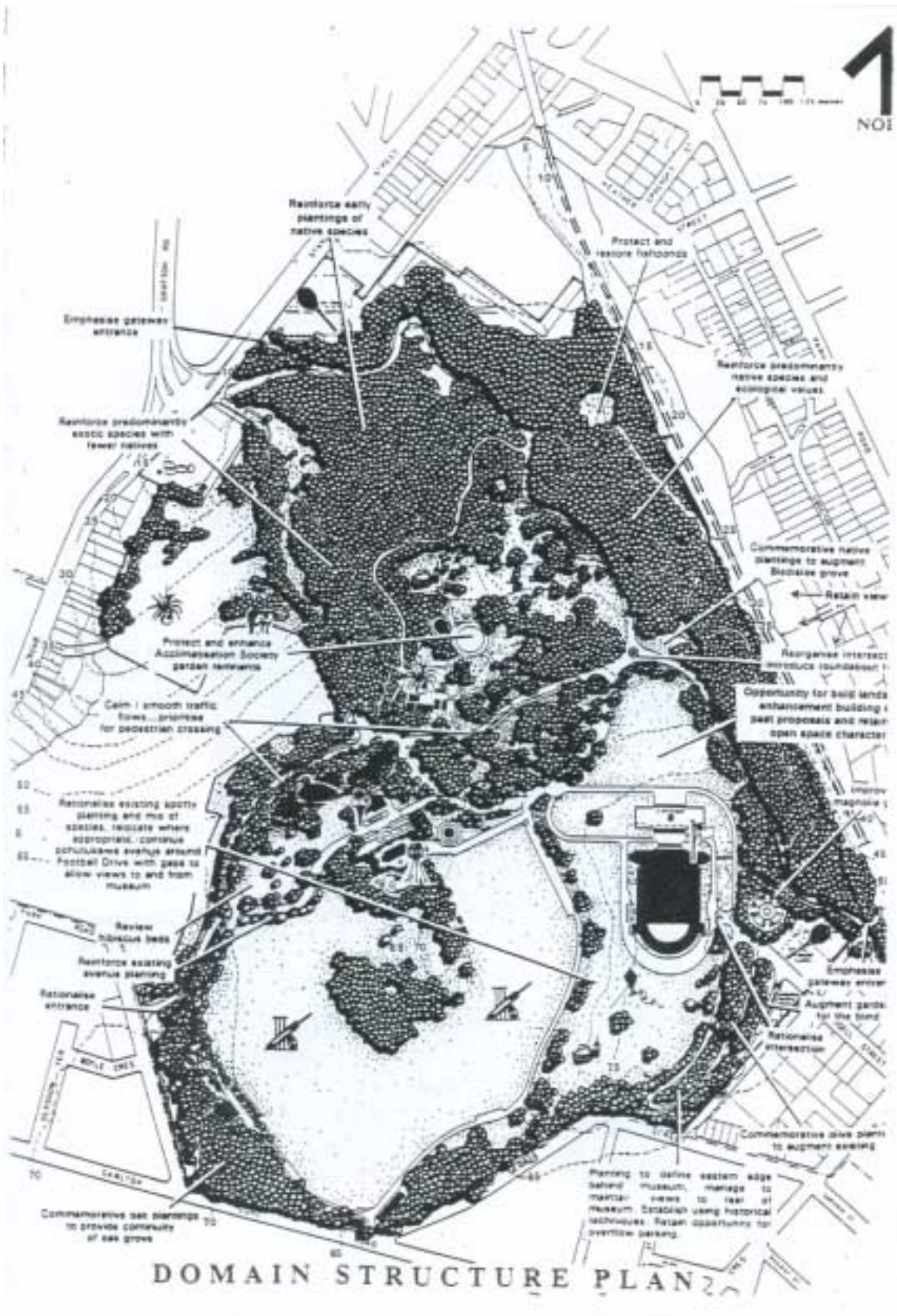


Figure 1 Structure Plan



### **How the plan is structured**

The section focus on one component associated with the Domain. The headings were derived from an analysis of issues brought forward by the consultation process for the Plan and requirements for the consideration of effects on the environment which includes geological, ecological, landscape, cultural, heritage, physical, community and ecosystem issues. The headings are outlined in the table of contents.

Each section consists of an explanatory Policy statement, policies and implementation.

The Policy statement is an explanation of the basis or justification upon which policy has been developed. It often provides:

- a brief historical assessment
- a description of the existing situation, and
- highlights problems and issues to be addressed

The Policies have been developed from an analysis of information provided in the Policy statement and the background resource document. Both day to day and long term requirements for the management of the Domain are provided and implementation techniques suggested. The opportunity has also been taken to prepare a list of actions required. These however, do not form part of the plan. They will appear as part of the annual operational works.

### **Resource document**

Supporting the Domain plan, but not providing day to day guidance, is a separate resource document entitled 'The Auckland Domain Plan Resource Document', which provides the analysis and justification for the policy decisions made under the plan. It is a repository for the collection of many elements of historical, social and natural value upon which the Domain has been built and developed.

### **Updating of the plan**

The plan and resource document will be updated every 5 years or so as circumstances dictate.

### **Administration of the plan**

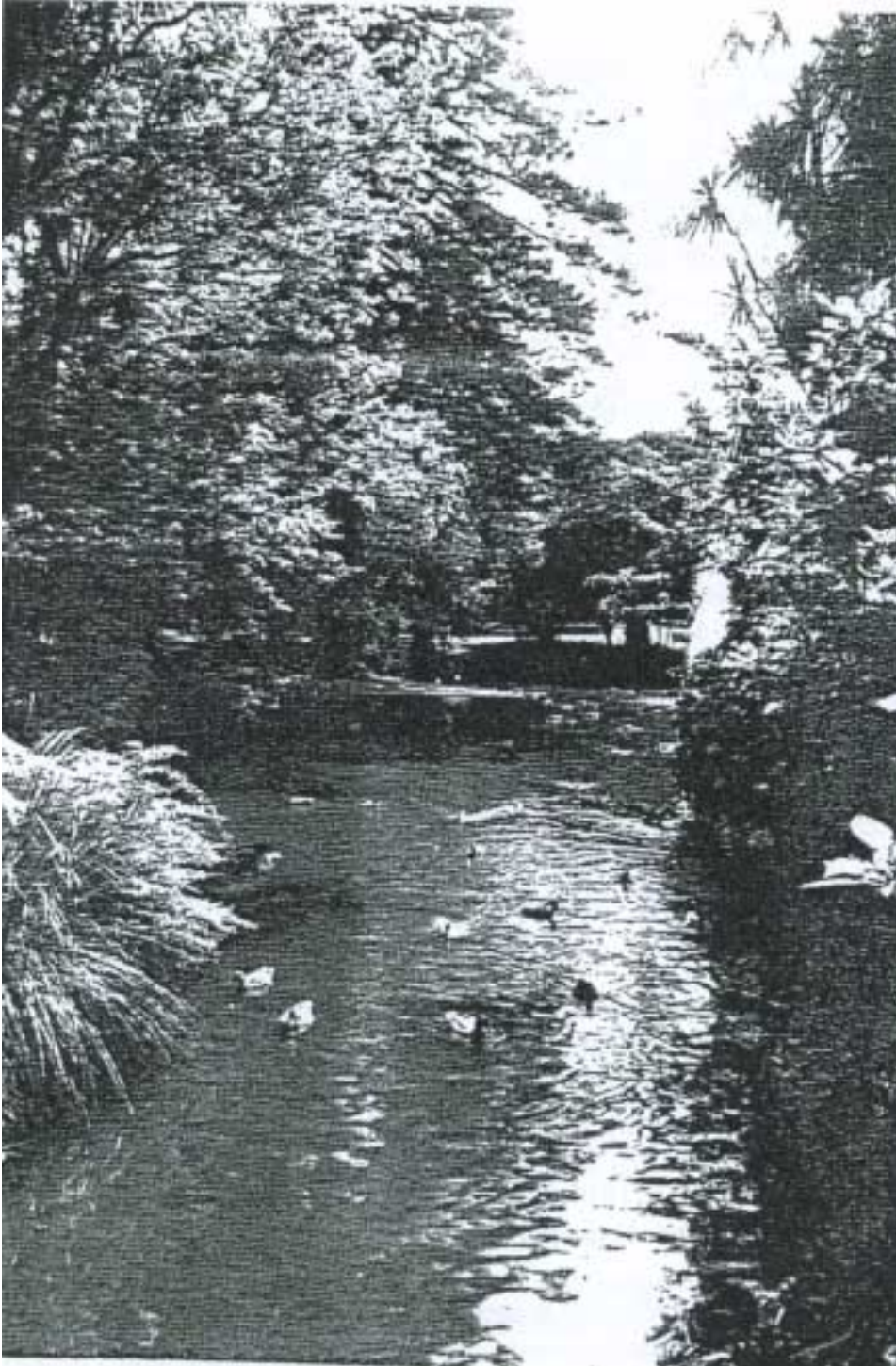
The Auckland Domain is administered by the Hobson Eastern Bays Area Parks Management of Auckland City with an annual programme of works promoted through the annual planning process.

The Domain Plan also provides for the establishment of a "Friends of the Domain" organisation to provide liaison and participation with Council in the Domain.

### **How to use the plan**

- The Domain Plan should be read in conjunction with the Auckland Domain Resource Document.
- When seeking to undertake work, assess a proposal or establish the management practices users of the plan should first turn to the appropriate section heading(s).
- Where a policy guideline is required in terms of the location within the Domain then a cross reference should be made to the structure plan.

- Assessment criteria for development or activity requests are provided for in respect to the Public and Recreation Use, Buildings and Monuments, Furniture and Signs, and Utility Services and Maintenance Facilities in Sections 6-9 of the plan.



**Figure 2 Domain Duck Ponds**

## 1.0 Cultural Landscape

### 1.1 Policy statement

The Domain is a unique cultural and historic landscape of immense importance to Auckland and in the history of New Zealand. It's uniqueness in part results from its coherence as a Domain which has formed part of the City of Auckland since the city's establishment in 1840 and is recognised by the special legislation under which the Domain continues to be managed. The entire site needs to be understood and managed as a cultural and historic landscape of great spiritual, cultural, scientific and visual value.

The history of Maori association, occupation and use within the Domain is significant and includes important pre-contact sites as well as early historic period sites. In addition the Maori record has been added to by a series of European activities and uses of great interest and importance to the early development of the city of Auckland and the country as a whole.

The Domain has been the site of a number of significant and dramatic activities and events including the site of peace making between Waikato and northern tribes 1828, establishment of the Domain with the founding of Auckland City (1840), the first city water supply (1866-1877), Government Gardens (1840-1900), Acclimatisation Society Gardens (1867-1882), and Trout Hatchery Fish Ponds (1872-1893), Potatau Te Wherowhero's house sites (1847-1858), Industrial Agricultural and Mining Exhibition (1913-1914), Wintergardens (1921-1928), Fernery (1930), Davis Cup tennis finals (1920), Auckland War Memorial Museum (1925-1929, 1955-1960), and American army camp, Camp Hale (1942-1944).

In addition the Domain has been the subject of a number of design competitions and proposals over the past 150 years, small remnants of many of which incorporated into the Domains present day structure.

It has been the nature of the developments within the Domain that successive activities and events have added to those of the past. In some cases this has led to the virtual obliteration of the remains of earlier times whilst in other cases some earlier features and/or their archaeological evidence remains. The Domain's landscape has become a complex layering of events and activities where small and large remnants of previous landscapes and activities remain in the present day surface features as testimony to the past. Such surface indications are clues that provide information about past times which lie in the archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface.

Much remains unknown regarding the past activities within the Domain and archaeological investigation is an important and fascinating history of events within the Domain in both Maori and European times. Such interpretation would complement the passive recreational characteristics of the Domain and provide a significant educational resource. In doing so there is also an opportunity to promote an understanding of the relevant political, social and physical events in the Auckland area and New Zealand as a whole which are part of the Domain's historical context.

The historical structures and archaeological sites within the Domain are vulnerable to activities which have the potential to destroy or damage them. In particular Domain development and maintenance itself has the potential to damage important cultural / historic sites and features with the introduction of new facilities, and incrementally through the processes of every day maintenance. Whilst protection of these cultural resources does not preclude development or prevent ongoing maintenance, it is critical that such practices are undertaken with a full

understanding of the values of the Domain as a whole and the area in particular. There is a need to build on links with the District Plan for cultural protection.

All sites and features of historical or cultural significance should be recognised and protected as part of our cultural heritage. Some historic sites within the Domain are legally classified as archaeological sites under the provisions of Historic Places Act 1980. Since the passing of the new Historic Places Act 1993 these are registered as Category II. In the District Plan the whole area of the Domain is scheduled as an archaeological site. The archaeological and historic site survey of the Domain has been only partially completed. This research, which needs to include documentary research, site survey and non-invasive techniques of site investigation should be carried out in consultation with Tangata Whenua. This is essential for both forward planning and day to day management of the Domain.

Management of the Domain could be assisted by the appropriate consultation with the Tangata Whenua, Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT), specialists in the European history of the Domain, Auckland Institute and Museum and other natural and cultural heritage specialists.

Domain management methods need to incorporate the best possible conservation techniques in recognition of the site's importance. The New Zealand branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS NZ) which is internationally linked to UNESCO, has recently prepared the New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value. The charter provides a guide to good conservation practice in New Zealand. This document should be used to guide management of the Domain.

Auckland City is undertaking a conservation plan for the fernery, part of the Wintergarden complex and a similar document is also being prepared for the Museum. This process of detailed historic research and investigation is rapidly becoming a pre-requisite to the appropriate management, maintenance, reuse, and / or interpretation of heritage, buildings, structures and landscapes. The process of conservation planning is seen as an essential foundation of the management of the historical/cultural resources of the Domain.

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE



Figure 3 Cultural Landscape Plan

### Policy 1.1

To recognise and promote the Domain as a cultural and historic landscape and to manage it to protect and enhance these values.

### Implementation

- work toward a full understanding of the cultural and historic values of the Domain through continued investigation of its traditional and European historical and archaeological features

- maintain a staff training programme to ensure that all staff are aware of the cultural values and sensitivities of the Domain
- ensure that all staff recognises that the Domain is in itself an archaeological site and that appropriate advice and authorities are sought for any work requiring ground disturbance, except for regular maintenance such as for flower beds and sports fields

### Policy 1.2

To recognise and protect Maori cultural sites.

#### Implementation

- in consultation with Maori decide the appropriate form of recognition and interpretation of Maori sites including Potatau Te Wherowhero's houses, Pukekaroa pa, Waikoahanga Pa, Pukekawa or Puke Maharatanga and Tokiwhatinui battle site

### Policy 1.3

To recognise and promote sensitivity towards sites of spiritual significance to Maori.

#### Implementation

- fence off the sites of Potatau Te Wherowhero's houses
- ensure no encouragement for the consumption of food, by way of sitting of seats, tables or hospitality tents is given in the following localities within the Domain
  - the Cenotaph and forecourt
  - Pukekaroa pa
  - Tokiwhatinui battle site
  - Waikohanga pa

### Policy 1.4

To improve the understanding of specific components of the cultural landscape and identify appropriate protection, use and interpretation, through the preparation of conservation plans for those sites or features that are to be restored or modified.

#### Implementation

- As a priority give particular attention to the:
  - Wintergarden complex
  - Acclimatisation Society Gardens

- Acclimatisation Society Fish Ponds

#### **Policy 1.5**

To increase the public awareness and understanding of the Domain's history.

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#### **Implementation**

- prepare, maintain and regularly update an interpretation strategy for the Domain based upon self guided pamphlet walks with appropriate on site information
- give priority to the interpretation of 'lost' sites e.g. the Government Garden and Industrial Exhibition
- identify an appropriate location (s) for the distribution of interpretative information both within and outside of the Domain
- interpret both the original context of the Domain and its relationship to the wider area as well as past activities and events within the Domain
- produce a popular, high quality photographic history of the Domain for the local and tourist market
- in co-operation with the DOC publish, maintain and continue to update the archaeological report of the Domain information
- encourage initiatives by the Museum for interpretation of the Domain

#### **Policy 1.6**

To encourage protection of the historical context of the Domain.

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#### **Implementation**

- identify and protect individual heritage items and historical precincts in the area adjoining the Domain
- identify, mark and interpret the original shoreline of Mechanics Bay and Maori hostel site; in relation to the Domain
- provide linkage to such areas
- provide interpretation of such areas and their relationship to the Domain

Historic Totara tree surrounded by Palisade fence



Figure 4 Historic Totara Tree

The Wintergarden looking towards the Tropical House

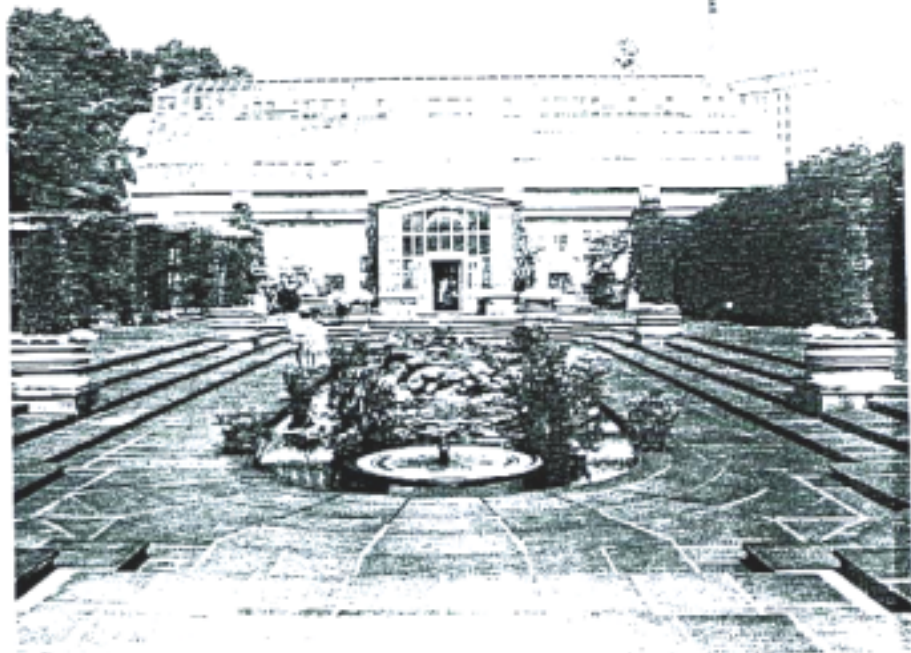


Figure 5 The Wintergarden



## 2.0 Landscape identity

### 2.1 Policy statement

The Domain was established at the beginning of the European colonisation of Auckland as a city, then capital of New Zealand. In this far sighted gesture the Domain was set aside from development to provide Auckland's citizens with a public green open space and recreational resource "the lungs of the city". In those early days when much of the city was open land, pasture and scrub, the Domain must have appeared an almost unnecessary extravagance. In its present day urban context, close to the centre of the country's largest city, the Domain has come to realise the potential recognised by the city's forefathers. Since its earliest times the Domain has enjoyed the love and vehement protection of its citizens who have enjoyed and championed its many values.

The most obvious geomorphic features of Auckland's urban landscape are the numerous small volcanoes of the Auckland Volcanic Field which have erupted lava fields, scoria cones, ash mantles and tuff rings over the rolling terrain of the Auckland Isthmus and North Shore, and over the alluvial lowlands north east of Manukau Harbour.

The Auckland Domain contains most of the eruption products and landforms of a single volcano. This is the "classic castle and moat" explosion crater and scoria cone in the southern part of the Domain. It is considered to be of national scientific and educational importance because of its excellent state of preservation and location (NZ Geopreservation Inventory and Kermod 1992 Geology of the Auckland Urban area).

The location and prominent landform of the Domain, in conjunction with the dominant position by the Museum, ensure that the Domain and its associated features are an important, though often subconscious, component of the experience of the City of Auckland for its residents and visitors alike. As much as anything it is these traditional values, the presence of green, vegetated, uncommercialised, and tranquil environment, which must be protected for the future generations of Aucklanders and the city's visitors.

The Domain is an important component of the city's open space network and complements the surrounding urban environments of the central city and waterfront, Parnell and Newmarket.

The Domain has evolved to comprise a number of discrete components generally linked by a framework of mature vegetation. These components include the 'duck ponds', Wintergarden, sports fields. Museum and forecourt, formal gardens, Pukekaroa pa and bush, amongst others. People often visit the Domain to experience one particular area or a grouped combination of these. Each broad component tends also to have more than one individual feature of attraction, for example, the Formal Gardens include fine tree specimens, planting beds, the Watson bequest sanctuary and Valkyrie fountain. The combination of these elements ensures the Domain remains appealing to a wide cross section of the public and contributed to its uniqueness.

With increasing numbers of visitors and the potential for new demands on the Domain it is important that its definable landscape character, identity and tranquillity is not compromised or lost in an effort to provide for more people, more experiences and activities.

Any new development, use or activity proposed, or management decision made, must be assessed in relation to:

- its necessity to be located within the Domain, its impact on the immediate area, on the Domain as a whole
- on its relationship to the wider city

## LANDSCAPE IDENTITY

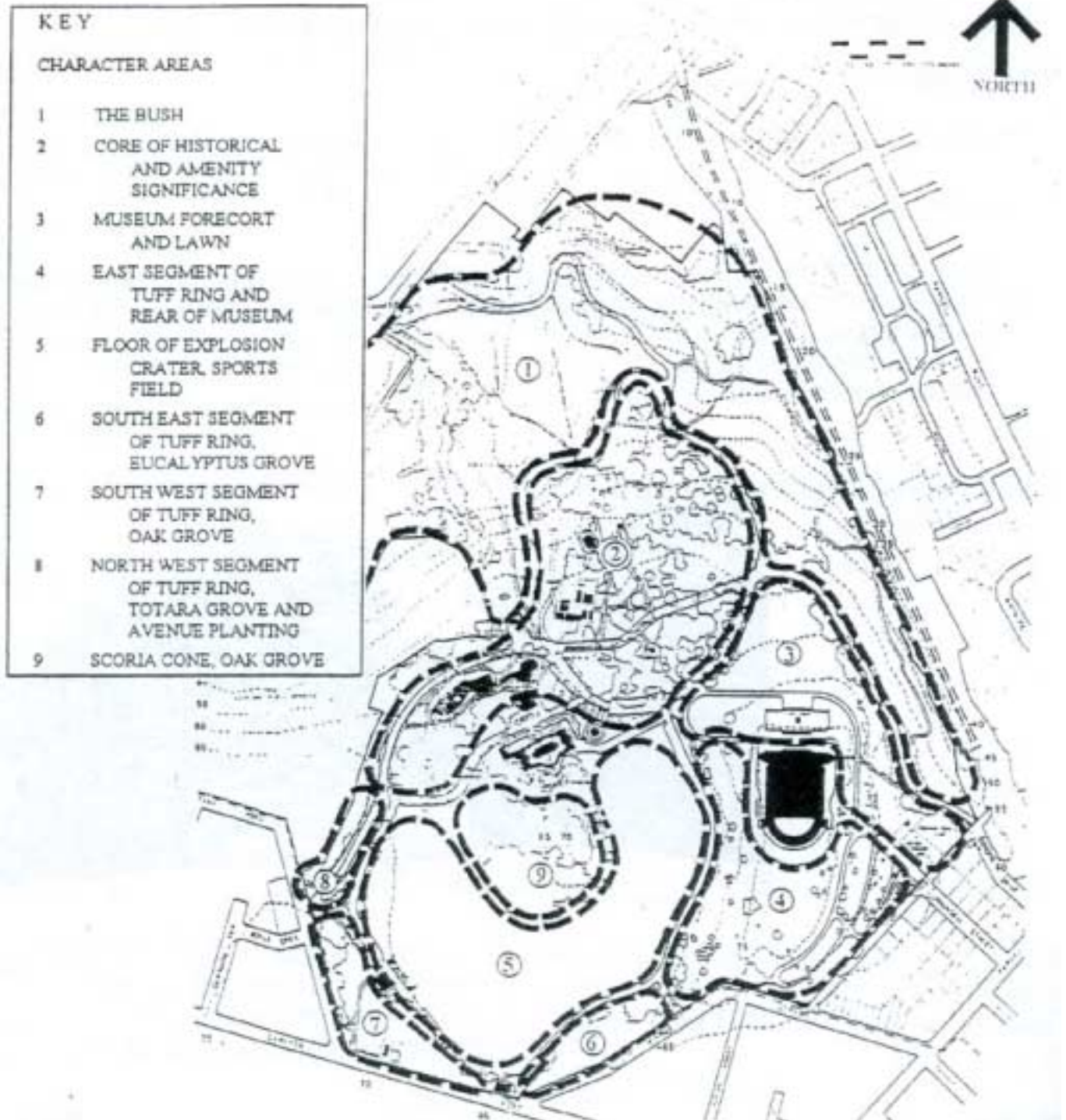


Figure 6 Landscape Identity Plan

### **Policy 2.1**

To recognise and protect the intrinsic values of the Domain as a component of the City of Auckland.

#### **Implementation**

- ensure off site development does not compromise the Domain’s dominant position within and connection to the City of Auckland by ensuring adequate development within the District Plan
- ensure management and maintenance decisions protect the special visual and physical relationship which the Domain enjoys with the City of Auckland
- ensure controls over sight lines to and from the Museum

### **Policy 2.2**

To recognise, protect and enhance the volcanic features, landscape character, atmosphere, and visual amenity of the Domain.

#### **Implementation**

- ensure protection of the Domain explosion crater tuff ring and central scoria cone for its scientific values
- ensure design and implementation decisions build on existing landscape character to improve the Domain’s existing landscape qualities
- restrict any activity that would compromise the non-commercialised and tranquil character of the Domain
- restrict any activity or use that would modify the landform of the Domain
- design any new buildings or structures to a high standard and ensure they are sited so as to protect the existing landscape character of the Domain
- identify and take up opportunities to enhance the landscape character of the Domain e.g. consider design opportunities for the front of the Museum, Cenotaph area and “Museum lawn”

### **Policy 2.3**

To protect, maintain and enhance the identifiable vegetative character of the Domain.

#### **Implementation**

- prepare and maintain an interpretation strategy for the Domain’s vegetation in collaboration with Auckland Museum

- prepare an overall vegetation concept plan for the Domain which recognises and enhances the discrete vegetative components of the Domain and its overall vegetative structure
- prepare vegetation management plans as required to ensure the longevity of the Domain's distinctive native and exotic vegetative character

#### **Policy 2.4r**



To increase the public awareness and understanding of the Domain's volcanic origins and use as a teaching environment for the study of earth science.

#### **Implementation**

- prepare and maintain an interpretation strategy for the Domain's volcanic features incorporating in site information, in collaboration with the Auckland Museum
- interpret both the original pre and immediately post volcanic eruption landforms of the Domain and the volcanoes relationship to the wider Auckland volcanic field which can be seen from the Domain
- produce educational material to encourage and assist teachers and individual visitors
- “ensure the protection of the Domain explosion crater, tuff ring and central scoria cone”
- promote research on the Domain's geology and maintain up to date records on its volcanic history

## **3.0 Circulation and parking**

### **3.1 Policy statement**

Traffic and parking are continuing concerns within the Domain. There are two overriding management principles which will be pursued.

- 1 All roads are primarily for access to destinations within the Domain.
- 2 Roads provide for public enjoyment of Domain values as a driving experience.

Through traffic will be secondary to these principles. The speed environment will be kept low and calmed, commensurate with these principles, to ensure that vehicular activity does not interfere with the enjoyment and use of the Domain facilities.

The techniques to achieve the management principles will be: physical management at the points of entry; physical speed restrictions through varied lane width, roundabouts, islands or changes in surface texture, and one way circulation. These will be applied as a staged programme.

Certainty in circulation within the Domain will be introduced and maintained through logical user options with clear simple and compatible signs. Some through traffic will be accepted on the Parnell – Stanley Street linkage (lower Domain Drive) but traffic with destinations within the Domain will be given priority. Traffic management techniques will be introduced to ensure that Domain traffic has priority and that through traffic does not reach volumes that cause adverse effects on the amenity of the Domain. Domain Drive will be retained for traffic circulating within the Domain with restrictions on the levels of through traffic.

Secondary routes will favour the appreciation of the Domain through attention to circulation requirements and accessibility to parking. Some of these routes, such as Football Road, will be restricted to one way movements which also favour pedestrian or other recreational use. No further roads will be established.

Time constraints will be maintained on key parking areas and these will be policed. Use of parking areas by people who are not using the Domain facilities will be actively discouraged. Public transport to and throughout the Domain will be encouraged. Flexibility will be maintained for overflow “event” parking west of the War Memorial Museum and between it and the Garden for the Blind.

Monitoring of the implications for the Domain of any changes to the wider roading pattern will be undertaken.

Parking levels will not be increased in areas of visual amenity, pedestrian activity or recreational use. However, additional parking may be considered in outer areas of the Domain but only if this can be achieved in a manner which maintains the management principles for the total area.

- KEY**
- ENTRY SPEED RESTRICTION AND GATEWAY WITH SIGNAGE
  - \* PHYSICAL SPEED RESTRICTION AND DECISION POINT INTERSECTION DESIGN
  - ▬ TRAFFIC CALMING TECHNIQUES TO FAVOUR PEDESTRIANS AND DEFINED CROSSING POINTS
  - ▨ OVERFLOW PARKING
  - FORMALISED PARKING AREAS
  - ⋯ FORMALISED PARALLEL PARKING
  - ~ NO THROUGH-ROAD OR OUT ONE WAY IF REQUIRED
  - ➔ LANE DIRECTIONS



FIGURE STATEMENT

Figure 7 Circulation and Parking Plan



**Figure 8 Parking on Crescent**

### **Policy 3.1**

To provide for vehicle access to key features and for public enjoyment of the Domain.

#### **Implementation**

- establish and maintain logical circulation routes
- ensure that traffic travels at a pace which assists users both to enjoy the Domain and make easy decisions on routes
- ensure that where traffic flow is in place it allows for other recreation as appropriate
- establish no additional roads
- provide clear, simple and appropriate signs
- vehicle access to service areas will be controlled and unobtrusive
- potentially hazardous areas, structures or service connections will be clearly marked for public awareness and safety

### Policy 3.2

To enable through traffic to use the Domain to the extent that it is compatible with the Domain objectives and is secondary to other Domain use.

#### Implementation

- through traffic will be permitted to use the Parnell to Stanley Street link (lower Domain Drive) so long as this flow does not disadvantage traffic with destinations in the Domain
- physical restrictions will be established to ensure that excessive volumes of through traffic are discouraged preserving the character of the roads and Domain
- all roads in the Domain are to be managed in speed environment, surface texture or direction terms to be compatible with the management principles, while preserving the character of the roads and Domain
- any changes to the road environment will be monitored in and beyond the Domain to assess their effects

### Policy 3.3

To maintain parking areas at strategic locations which serve the needs of Domain users but do not dominate park values or enjoyment.

#### Implementation

- continue to maintain and retain present levels of parking which assist the user to enjoy the Domain
- any additional carparking should only be considered in areas external to the main focal points in compliance with all other relevant policies
- casual event carparking to be provided in the defined area adjacent to Garden for the Blind, or in other area subject to approval by the Area Manager

### Policy 3.4

To encourage and provide for the use of public transport to gain access to the Domain and for circulation within it.

#### Implementation

- provide opportunities for public transport and tourist transport to use the Domain
- provide for bus parking and manoeuvring adjacent to main features



### **Policy 3.5**

To recognise and maintain appropriate management and control practices.

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#### **Implementation**

- retain the application of Council bylaws in regulation and policing of parking and ensure parking limitations are policed to discourage long term and inappropriate use of car parks
- ensure that policing powers are retained for all local road traffic links

## 4.0 Pedestrian linkage

### 4.1 Policy statement

The lack of good, logical and continuous pedestrian linkage within the Domain is a continuing issue. In parts there is no separate hard paved pedestrian surface and those on foot are forced either to use the vehicular surface or to walk on grass which is often wet and muddy. In other areas where a separate pedestrian circulation system exists experience of the Domain is often compromised by proximity to, and interrupted by, roadways which cut through the pedestrian pathway.

The Domain is primarily a place for the enjoyment of passive recreation of which walking is an important component. As a principle, pedestrians should have priority over vehicles within the Domain. It is essential that the main pedestrian routes are accommodated by all weather pathways.

The nature of the pathway will influence the users experience of the Domain. In some parts of the Domain. Particularly in the 'wilder' bush areas, it is appropriate to have paths which are less formalised, to the point of being small tracks through the vegetation. A hierarchy of paths of different widths and surface materials needs to be established to create and reinforce a variety of experiences within the Domain.

In addition to allowing for logical appropriate pedestrian circulation within the Domain, good pedestrian linkages to adjacent areas outside of the Domain should be provided. In particular pedestrian access to/from Parnell and the city is presently limited. This is in part due to the nature of the landform and to the street pattern.

From Parnell Road westward toward the Domain the pattern of roading and associated footpaths does not encourage pedestrian access to the Domain. A suggestion has been put forward for the construction of a pedestrian access from the end of Aorere Street into the Domain, incorporating a foot bridge. This suggestion is endorsed. Access is also available, though not yet developed, through St Mary's Close. This should be formalised.

The Hobson Community Board has been actively pursuing a policy of providing physical linkages (for pedestrians, recreation, wildlife, visual values and the like) between existing reserve and open space areas in the ward. This policy is also supported and connections into and through the Domain should be encouraged.

In the north west pedestrian access from the city to the Domain is restricted by Stanley Street Traffic. This will be exacerbated by the proposed extension of the motorway through to Parnell Rise/Beach Road. Consideration of pedestrian access will be an essential component of this proposal.

Whilst pedestrian use of the Domain is reduced at night, the main through routes particularly for local residents and university students should be lit for safe pedestrian access.

#### **Policy 4.1**

To provide for pedestrian priority within the Domain.

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#### **Implementation**

- Ensure roadways within the Domain are treated to provide pedestrian priority at all key crossing points; these crossing points are shown on the attached plan
- Ensure bicycles and trailbikes are limited to formed roadways, for pedestrian safety and vegetation protection

#### **Policy 4.2**

To provide for logical continuous circulation for pedestrians and disabled persons within the Domain.

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#### **Implementation**

- establish and maintain logical circulation routes
- provide clear, simple and appropriate signs, begin signs at appropriate locations on pedestrian pathways outside of the Domain
- ensure disabled persons access to all main features of the Domain, particularly between Museum, Wintergarden and duck ponds
- identify and provide for disabled persons access along at least one Domain bush path

#### **Policy 4.3**

To provide for logical continuous circulation for pedestrians and disabled persons within the Domain.

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#### **Implementation**

- encourage initiatives to improve pedestrian access in the Domain from the surrounding pedestrian network and to other adjacent open space
- encourage pedestrian linkages which traverse the Domain e.g. coast to coast walkway
- ensure a pedestrian linkage from the city to the Domain is an integral component of future motorway extension proposals for Stanley Street

#### **Policy 4.4**

To provide for a variety of pedestrian experiences within the Domain.

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#### **Implementation**

- establish and maintain a hierarchy of pathways from wide hard pathways connecting key visitor elements (e.g. Wintergarden to Museum) to small informal pathways through bush areas

#### **Policy 4.5**

To provide safe day-time and night-time pedestrian routes

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#### **Implementation**

- light main pedestrian night time through routes to improve user safety
- use signs to identify lit night time pathways
- use path hierarchy to ensure one wide, lit, safe route across Domain and ensure this is identified for park users

#### **Policy 4.6**

To provide for disabled access

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#### **Implementation**

- wherever possible ensure grades meet accessible route criteria

## 5.0 Flora and fauna

### 5.1 Policy statement

The present day pattern of vegetation within the Domain is a result of centuries of Maori and more than 150 years of European management. There is clear evidence that the Domain's vegetation, like that of its surrounding landscape, was modified as a result of Maori habitation and use.

Following European settlement the Domain became a focus of vegetation management including the maintenance and propagation of native plant species and the introduction, propagation and establishment of exotic plant species. The acclimatisation society gardens, now site of the formal gardens, which were sited within the Domain between 1867-81, were in particular a focus for scientific experimentation with the breeding of native and exotic plant species.



Figure 9 Exotic Formal Planting



**Figure 10 Exotic Planting**

The early Domain superintendents generally brought with them experience of overseas vegetation management techniques. Much early planting of exotic species had a forestry basis with mixed species designed for multiple values. This included rapid-growing species, such as poplar, willow and conifers for quick establishment and timber and firewood values, mixed with slower species such as oak.

There are remaining vegetation character areas within the Domain where groupings of species and/or their relationship to their surrounding create a distinctive quality. These are outlined in the above plan and in the resource document. Detailed plant survey is required to facilitate

management to maintain the distinctive vegetative character of the Domain, particularly the 'Bush' areas.

A number of areas contain trees that have reached or are nearing maturity. Ongoing replacement programmes are required to ensure the total vegetative stock and historically significant vegetation associations are not depleted. Much of the Domain's exotic vegetative stock is historically significant and should be propagated to ensure continuity.

In order to successfully maintain the vegetation character of the Domain a clear direction is required for research, planning and management for the next century and beyond.

The District Plan protects notable trees (for historic, scientific and/or amenity reasons) through its "schedule of notable trees". From time to time this will need to be updated to ensure adequate protection of all notable trees within the Domain.

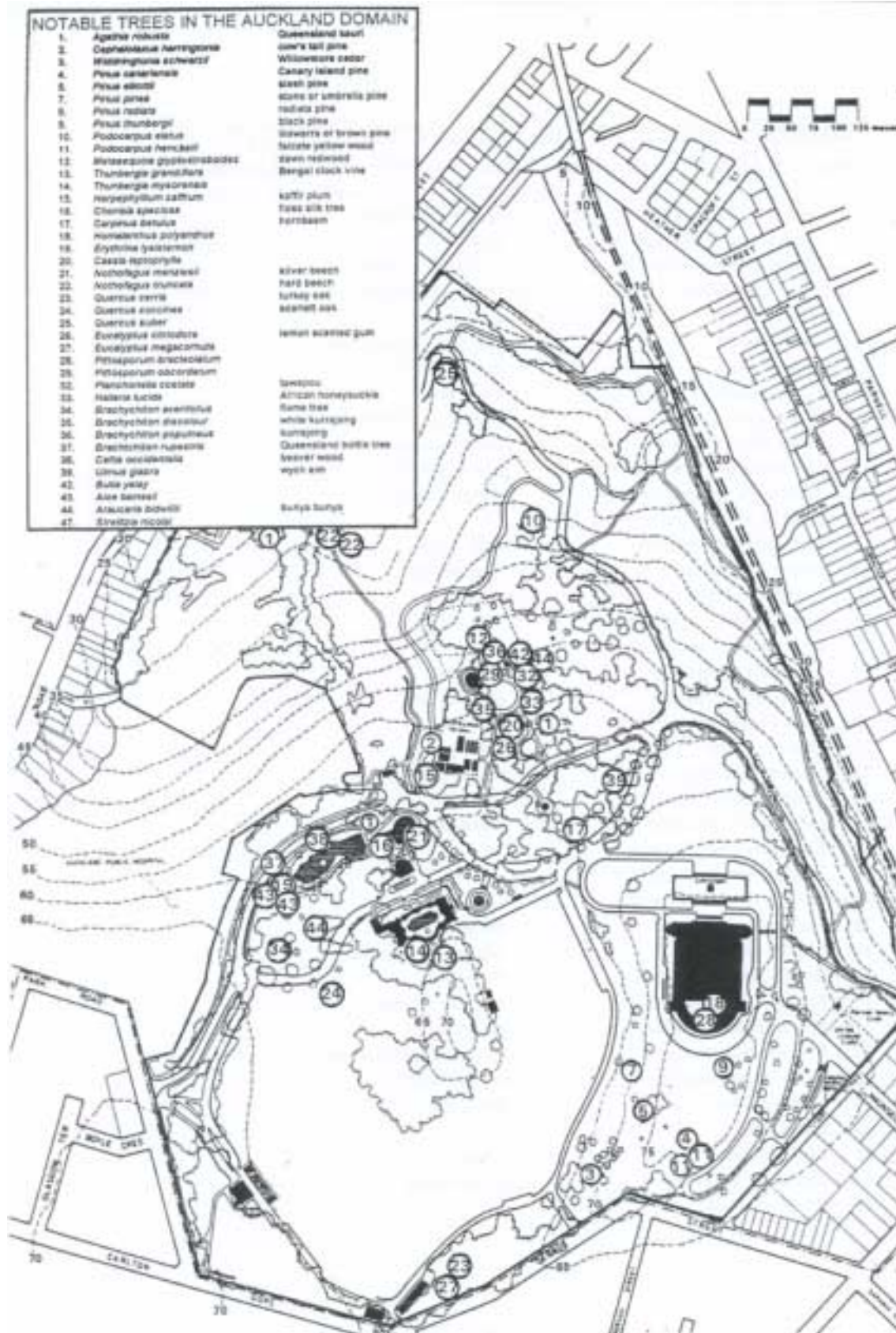


Figure 11 Notable Trees Plan



Within the Domain there is no clear division between native, “natural” and “cultural” vegetation cover. Essentially the vegetation in its entirety has been managed for a long period of time and as a result of human manipulation.

The Domain continues to provide an important urban habitat for wildlife, mainly native and exotic bird species.

The Domain could benefit by strengthening of its ecological pattern, improving community diversity. Native and exotic species should remain mixed, although some areas can be guided towards native dominance, while others should be managed for oak dominance or other exotic associations. The area below Domain Drive toward Parnell has been identified as most appropriate for enrichment with predominantly native species.

There has been some research into privet control and this should be complemented by research into other weed species, their likely spread and appropriate control methods.

Monitoring of the health and safety of the mature exotic trees has already begun and this needs to continue and to be extended to all mature vegetation within the Domain.

There are some considerable areas within the Domain where there is a lack of good structural planting which provides enclosure and strong delineation between spaces. In particular the Titoki Street edge and Museum side of the sports field road require planting of this nature. Improvements to these areas should be a priority.

Views to the Museum from various parts of the city and from the Domain towards the city are an important feature of the Domain. Vegetation management will be required to protect significant views, with consultation as appropriate.

Tree planting has the potential to damage archaeological sites and features. Tree planting should be planned in advance as part of an annual plan of works and advice sought from Auckland City and New Zealand Historic Places Trust staff.

There has in the past and continues to be pressure within the Domain for memorial and commemorative plantings. In particular, the Domain has a strong historical association with plantings of native trees by the visiting Presidents of Rotary International. Such plantings add to the richness of meaning of the vegetation and are appropriate within the domain where they can be used to reinforce existing planting themes. These must be carried out within the context of the Landscape Plan.

Opportunities exist throughout the Domain for the interpretation of the existing vegetation. Historically there are important themes for the interpretation of the early management of exotic plant species. In addition there is the opportunity to interpret the ecology including plant associations, specific floral values and fauna.



### Policy 5.1

To protect existing vegetation patterns within the Domain that are of historic significance.

#### Implementation

- undertake a detailed vegetation survey of the Domain based on documentary research and site survey to establish appropriate replanting programmes
- maintain an up to date schedule of notable trees within District Plan
- prepare a vegetation management programme for the Domain which reflects the requirements of distinct character areas
- ensure Privet control programme is continued as a priority within the Domain
- continue research into, and implementation of, weed control programmes within the Domain
- consult with the Historic Places Trust regarding the protection of archaeological sites and historic features
- maintain a propagation programme to ensure continuity of important vegetation

### Policy 5.2

To improve vegetation values in areas which presently lack a quality vegetative environment.

#### Implementation

- prepare an overall vegetation concept plan for the Domain
- prepare planting concept plans for areas of the Domain which lack a quality vegetation environment, in particular these include:
  - the area to the south east of the Museum along Titoki Street
  - the area of the present magnolia garden

- the area is the present hibiscus garden
- the area to the west of the Museum
- the area in front of the Museum (there is a need for specific design for this area which retains the open space character whilst addressing opportunities for planting)
- Kari Street Nursery boundary to Grafton Gully

### Policy 5.3

Encourage the use of the Domain as a teaching environment for ecology.

#### Implementation

- Following detailed survey of the existing vegetation establish a planting strategy for the Domain which will provide for continuity of the existing diverse pattern of vegetation and also work towards the following
- Enhance diverse plant communities e.g. NZ Forest, shrub land, open grass lands, streams, ponds, wetlands
- Relate habitats to topographical and microclimate factors
- Emphasise connections between plant communities
- Use plant species of food and shelter value to birds and insects to create a living habitat “museum”
- Produce educational material to encourage and assist teachers and individual visitors
- Invite Entomological Society to survey the Domain

### Policy 5.4

To maintain and enhance the diversity of wildlife currently using the Domain by providing suitable forest, water and open ground habitat.

#### Implementation

- Ensure planting provides a diversity of native and exotic species to support desirable wildlife
- Investigate the possibility of reintroducing native fish species into the Domain’s waterways
- Consider habitats and ecological processes when preparing concept plans for Domain vegetation character areas
- Monitor and maintain water quality in all Domain water bodies
- Prepare water management plans which consider ponds and streams as habitats for invertebrates and birds

### Policy 5.5

To encourage memorial and commemorative plantings in appropriate areas of the Domain.

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## **Implementation**

Areas have been identified as appropriate for continued memorial and commemorative planting, these are:

- Consolidation of the Rotary groves
- Oaks, grown from mother stock Domain trees, on the Park Road / Carlton Gore perimeter to eventually replace existing trees
- Native species to augment the Bledisloe Grove
- Olives to augment existing plantings to the east of the Museum

## 6.0 Public and recreation use

### 6.1 Policy statement

The Auckland Domain as a high profile centrally located green open space is in constant demand as a venue for passive and active recreation. Increasing pressure on Domain resources requires careful consideration of proposals to ensure long term protection of the public recreation values of the Domain compatible with the Domain's cultural, scientific and ecological values.

Diversity of passive and active recreational opportunities for all people, disabled and able bodied, should be encouraged and enhanced within the Domain. Existing organised sports, both summer and winter, generally have strong historical ties to the Domain. Primary users will be provided with the opportunity to continue with their current levels of seasonal activity. No provision will be made for the expansion of active sports areas. Any re-organisation will occur within the existing area. The importance of passive recreational pursuits which are free and open to the public will be recognised. The Auckland City Domain Amendment Act (1987) prohibits the granting of further leases of Domain land.

As a large open space the Domain is an attractive and popular venue for one off events which often attract large crowds, e.g. Kiri Te Kanawa's concert, the Pope's visit. Approval for and conditions on such events will be managed in accordance with criteria established under the plan.

The physical quality of facilities will be maintained and upgraded as appropriate to ensure the Domain is able to sustain its high profile as a recreation area.

#### Policy 6.1

To provide for the multiple use of the Domain for organised sports in areas defined for those activities.

#### Implementation

- Maintain a sports field and cricket pitch layout
- Realign sports fields and cricket pitches more effectively to provide improved player safety
- Retain and facilitate the continued operation of the 1 mile measured road running and cycling circuit marked and located to one side of Football Road circulation system
- Maintain field drainage through appropriate sports field management techniques
- Monitor turf resilience
- Keep maintenance procedures under review to ensure open space uses can be sustained at acceptable carrying capacity levels
- Install sufficient lighting to ensure safe use of facilities for evening training, particularly at the eastern end of the sports ground

## Policy 6.2

To sustain a diversity of appropriate informal public recreation opportunities

### Implementation

- Protect existing open space areas without a specific focus or function for visitors wishing to enjoy such qualities
- Develop informal recreation opportunities for all Domain users compatible with the special qualities of the Domain setting and objectives and which complement opportunities available elsewhere in the city
- Promote an awareness of complementary facilities beyond the Domain, e.g. the children's playground in Outhwaite Park
- Keep under review the hours of opening to the general public for the Wintergarden and tea kiosk to ensure maximum benefit to users
- Maintain public awareness of Domain botanical and horticultural values by making the Domain Nursery more accessible to the public
- Establish and maintain times walking routes, including theme walks such as nature and ecological trails
- Promote Domain venues and booking conditions to encourage public awareness and use of public facilities
- Retain a management and maintenance system to deal with special events and their impact
- Encourage use of existing facilities such as the band rotunda and grandstand for compatible musical, theatrical and other performances

## Policy 6.3

To encourage appropriate use of areas of the Domain identified for special events

### Implementation

Assess short term *special* event proposals against the following criteria:

- Events must be of public interest and value
- There must be no conflict with Domain heritage or vegetation values
- Consideration must be taken to protect the seasonal requirements of committed recreation users, particularly cricket, soccer, rugby and rugby league allocations
- Saturday sport users will only be temporarily located out of the Domain for periods agreed in advance with the user groups and then preferably between seasons, over the Christmas break, or non playing periods
- Special events will be managed and timed to cause the minimum disruption to other users, vehicle circulation and parking

- Approval must be gained prior to the staging of any such event
- The potential effects of the proposed event will be assessed and any mitigation or rehabilitation required will be the responsibility of the proponent of the event
- Noise limits may be set for any event. These will not be less than those operating under the District Plan
- Any event more suited to another city venue will be located away from the Domain
- Access to the Museum is maintained
- In situations where there could be damage to Domain facilities or values, a refundable monetary bond will be required to ensure reinstatement
- Special event organisers will be responsible for appropriate protection of all historic sites, buildings, fauna and flora of the Domain. The means of protection may include:
  - temporary vehicle and pedestrian barriers and fences
  - safety of the public from all effects of the event
  - provision of adequate public facilities, such as toilets, first aid and emergency access to meet bylaw requirements
- minor commercial enterprises associated with special events will be temporary (non-repeating) only, as required by the Domain Amendment Act
- No event will be authorised if there is a risk to heritage, cultural / archaeological features, Maori values or sport fields areas, or where noise or public activity would be likely to cause unacceptable disturbance to other Domain users or the adjoining neighbours. Heavy rock concert use will not be authorised

#### **Policy 6.4**

To assess proposals for recreation use or development in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1 The need for the proposed activity to be located in the Domain or on the particular site, with reference to other opportunities provided by other Auckland City facilities or parks.
- 2 The need to protect the historic and cultural values of the Domain and for consultation with Auckland City Conservation and Urban Design division and the Historic Places Trust.
- 3 The need to protect the spatial and passive recreational qualities of the Domain.
- 4 Compatibility of the proposed activity with others on the site and surrounding neighbourhood in terms of the scale and nature of the proposal, number s of people involved, the traffic generated, the timing of the activity and the support facilities required.
- 5 Compatibility with the Policy statement and policy / implementation described above.
- 6 Compliance with the Auckland City District Plan and other legislation as it relates to the Domain.

## 7.0 Buildings and monuments

### 7.1 Policy statement

Whilst the Domain is predominantly open space it contains a small number of buildings and a considerable number of statues, monuments and other structures, the majority of which are of architectural and/or historical merit and significance.

Auckland City lists protected buildings, objects and structures in its District Plan. This list includes all significant Domain buildings, structures and statuary in recognition of their historical significance and/or architectural merit. Incorporation in the District Plan is the best form of protection available to these structures. It is important that all of the Domain's significant built features, including statuary, water features and lighting standards are incorporated on the District Plan list. The Domain benefits from the cumulative effect of these smaller significant items as well as from the more obvious notable structures.

A number of buildings and structures within the Domain have New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) classifications as national recognition of their significance. There are, however, important items worthy of the Trust's recognition within the Domain which remain unclassified.

It is also important that the context of significant structures, buildings and monuments is maintained to ensure their integrity.

There is little demand for new buildings within the Domain and proliferation of buildings is discouraged. Any new construction required e.g. for toilet facilities, should be necessary to the Domain's function, carefully integrated with the existing landscape and constructed to a high standard of design and implementation.

There remains some limited opportunity for sculpture within the Domain. This should be considered on a case by case basis in relation to the nature of the sculpture itself and the qualities and values of the site. Contemporary sculpture has the ability to enrich the passive recreational values and aesthetic qualities of the Domain and appropriate sculpture should be encouraged. The location of any such sculpture should be carefully considered in relation to the cultural values of the Domain. In particular it is not generally considered appropriate that additional should be added to the core historical areas of the previous Government Gardens, Acclimatisation Society gardens or Museum. It is also important to recognise the value of open space within the Domain which has no built focus or feature as a complement to areas with such foci.

#### Policy 7.1

To ensure that all buildings and structures of historical and/or architectural merit and their landscape context are protected and managed for their conservation values.

#### Implementation

- ensure appropriate protection for all structures of historical / architectural merit within the Domain
- ensure all Domain statuary and water features of historical and archaeological significance are listed for protection



- ensure conservation plans are carried out for any building or structure within the Domain prior to major maintenance or modification occurring
- ensure maintenance of any structure or architectural / historical merit employs only the best conservation advice and techniques
- ensure modification of any structure of architectural and/or historical merit is undertaken only in accordance with an approved conservation plan
- consult with Historic Places Trust regarding the protection of historic buildings and monuments
- abide by the ICOMOS New Zealand charter in the conservation and protection of historic monuments and sites

#### **Policy 7.2**

To ensure that existing buildings not of specific historical/architectural merit are appropriately treated.

#### **Implementation**

- Ensure existing service and functional buildings are treated in terms of planting and colour to minimise their impact on the amenity values of the Domain.

#### **Policy 7.3**

To ensure that any additional buildings are sensitively designed and appropriately located.

#### **Implementation**

- ensure any new structure will enhance the aesthetic and functional environment of the Domain
- ensure any new building or structure is architecturally designed for its location
- ensure all colour scheme for painted Domain structures are in accordance with their conservation plan or are appropriate to the historical and/or their landscape context and the function of structures

#### **Policy 7.4**

To improve the public awareness and understanding of the historic and architectural merit and history of buildings and structures within the Domain.

#### **Implementation**

- provide appropriate low key on site interpretation of structures and buildings of historic and archaeological significance

- provide pamphlet information regarding the history of buildings and structures, landforms and geology within the Domain for use in self guided walks
- establish plaques to the standard Auckland City design for all sites or structures listed for protection and ensure that these are linked to the interpretation programmes
- pursue opportunities for co-operative interpretation with the Museum

#### **Policy 7.5**

To assess proposals for additional buildings and structures the following criteria should be used.

- 1 The need for the proposed structure to be located within the Domain
- 2 The need for the proposed structure to be sited in the location identified
- 3 The protection of specific sites of cultural, historical and/ or archaeological significance from disturbance or compromise
- 4 The importance of maintaining some areas of the Domain free of built elements
- 5 The contribution of the item to the quality of experience within the Domain.
- 6 The architectural or artistic merit of the proposed item.
- 7 The public attitude toward the proposed item.
- 8 District Plan requirements (in respect to activities and resource consents).

#### **Policy 7.6**

To allow for the maintenance and development of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, under the Auckland War Memorial Museum maintenance Act 1979, so that it may continue as a civic, national and international leader amongst museums.

#### **Implementation**

- Assess proposals in terms of the Domain Management Plan

## 8.0 Furniture and signs

### 8.1 Furniture

The Domain contains a range of styles of site furniture including fences, seats, tables, rubbish receptacles, bollards, garden and road edgings, lighting standards and public telephones. Some of these items have heritage value in themselves.

Site furniture has both functional and aesthetic requirements. Individual elements need to be located where they will accommodate their function whilst, in themselves and their site context, contributing to the aesthetic environment. For example, rubbish receptacles

- should be located near to sources of rubbish generation, close to pathways and pedestrian routes, sufficient in number, easily recognisable, and easy to service and maintain
- in visual terms they should, be integrated with their surroundings, be historically appropriate and not form a dominant element

Standard designs for site furniture items need to be established and adhered to. A style book should be prepared specifying design and location of site furniture elements. Different standard styles should be adopted for areas of specific cultural heritage value e.g. the Wintergarden and Acclimatisation Society gardens, to reinforce these values. This approach will lead to visual integrity and continuity of treatment within the Domain. It will also assist maintenance.

Where there is little opportunity for control over furniture design, e.g. public telephones, location becomes of critical importance to ensure aesthetic and passive recreational values are not compromised.

All site furniture items need to be robust, easily maintained and serviced.

There are areas within the Domain in which activities such as eating of food and rubbish collection are inappropriate due to Maori cultural associations. Careful location of site furniture, in particular seats, tables and rubbish receptacles will assist in avoiding the violation of these sensitivities.

### 8.2 Signs

The Domain has few directional signs. Whilst this is seen by many as a positive attribute, it also leaves visitors without a clear appreciation of the Domain's many opportunities. There is a need for easily understood location maps for Domain users with supplementary 'prompt' signs on major vehicle and pedestrian routes. In particular vehicular and pedestrian circulation, car parking, activity and distinct character areas need to be identified in relation to the viewer's position. Key locations for this type of sign are associated with the main vehicular and pedestrian entry points to the Domain. Supplementary prompt signs need to be located to improve the level of certainty where decisions are to be made.

Signs need to be easily read in relation to the viewing environment. At the same time they must avoid intrusion on enjoyment of the Domain as a passive recreational environment of high visual quality. Auckland City has developed its own styles of signs for reserve use throughout the City. The Domain is, however, a large and distinctive amenity which requires its own directional signs identity to complement its particular values. Site specific directional signs should be developed for the Domain.

Auckland City's vitreous enamel Historic Place plaques, already present in the Domain, should be maintained to preserve city-wide continuity, and be extended to cover additional features.

Signs need to be robust, vandal resistant, and easily able to be updated and maintained.

### Policy 8.1

To provide well located, functional, aesthetically pleasing, and appropriate, site furniture.

#### Implementation

- use specific heritage style site furniture only where this is appropriate
- prepare a site furniture style book for the Domain and work to eliminate existing divergent elements

### Policy 8.2

To improve the level of information for 'Domain users whilst minimising visual intrusion by signs.

#### Implementation

- install Domain location maps in appropriate locations at main entry points and other appropriate central locations, e.g. the grandstand
- ensure all signs are sensitively located
- design signs specific to the Domain to be clear, easily discernible, low key, complimentary to the historical / cultural and passive recreational values of the Domain and incorporating an appropriate hierarchy
- install Domain maps in appropriate street locations in entry to Domain e.g. Parnell, hospital entry
- provide for temporary signs at the discretion of the Area Manager

### Policy 8.3

To ensure that the location of all site furniture and signs are culturally sensitive and do not compromise historic values.

#### Implementation

- identify areas of cultural sensitivity and ensure these sensitivities are not compromised by the location of site furniture (see cultural landscape policy three)
- ensure any furniture or sign activities involving the disturbance of the ground surface have the appropriate approvals

- consult with the Auckland City Conservation and Design Departments and the Historic Places Trust before furniture and sign proposals are implemented

#### **Policy 8.4**

To provide for commemorative plaques within the set styles identified for the Domain.

#### **Implementation**

- facilitate appropriate commemorative recognition and sponsorship for Domain furniture and planting through the design of standard plaques and associated plinths for seating and planting

#### **Policy 8.5**

To assess signs in accordance with the following criteria.

- 1 Aesthetically appropriate size, scale, height and positioning in the designated site.
- 2 Signs will need to be aesthetically pleasing using a style and form, materials and colour scheme, that have been approved by Council.
- 3 Signs will be water-proof, weather-proof, vandal-proof (as far as possible), and of extremely sturdy construction.
- 4 Assessment of signs will include whether the sign is permanent or temporary.
- 5 Permanent commercial advertising signs which are not related to the Domain will not be permitted.

## 9.0 Utility services and facilities

### 9.1 Policy statement

The Domain as a large central open space is inevitably under pressure for the passage of utility services for the wider community. It is also required to maintain a network of services and individual facilities for servicing its own needs. While provision for maintenance is desirable, new permanent utilities will only be acceptable if placed underground.

Utility services generally follow carriageways and are located under or parallel to pedestrian footpaths. Service connections are necessary at each public building e.g. Museum, Tea Kiosk, Wintergardens. Existing services include Telecom communication cables, Auckland Electric Power cables, sewage and stormwater reticulation. Watercare Services Limited is responsible for the underground bulk water reservoir and associated works. Overflow water capacity is provided for.

Any upgrading of services will be required to meet environmental criteria in terms of the environment, users, fauna and flora. The introduction of a new or an upgraded utility service will be required to prove that it is needed.

The location of services or facilities, the materials used and any parts of services exposed to public view, will be required to be located appropriately and sensitively in respect to their immediate environment.

Additional facilities such as telephones which are of direct benefit to Domain users may be located within the Domain in compliance with design criteria.

The Domain also houses a number of maintenance facilities which provide for its management and maintenance. These include the nurseries and composting areas. They provide an essential function. The Domain nursery is historically and horticulturally unique and houses a priceless plant collection, integral with the Wintergarden. The nurseries and maintenance facilities should not be able to grow in size beyond their current sites.

#### Policy 9.1

To provide for the continued function and maintenance or upgrading of existing utilities which service the Domain.

#### Implementation

- all existing services will be regularly inspected and maintained
- additional utility service connections will be established on the basis of need and in accordance with Policy Five

#### Policy 9.2

To provide for the continued function and maintenance or upgrading of existing utilities which service the wider community.

### **Implementation**

- all existing utility services are to be regularly inspected and maintained with a view to protecting Domain values
- any requirements for upgrading must be supported by a statement which establishes the need for the work
- all other rules or regulations; District Plan, Historic Places Trust, resource consents, or statutory operation or requirements must be met

#### **Policy 9.3**

To oppose the introduction of additional underground community wide utility services or communication installations.

### **Implementation**

- the Council will monitor all utility service consent applications which could directly or indirectly impact on the Domain or its values

#### **Policy 9.4**

To ensure continued facilities for the management and maintenance of the Domain.

### **Implementation**

- continue use of the plant nursery without physical expansion
- Continue use of the composting area in a tidy manner. Consider relocation to a less public location following restoration of the historic fishponds.
- the modification or extension of any Domain maintenance facility or building will be tested against buildings and monuments, recreation and development criteria in the Domain Plan

#### **Policy 9.5**

To assess all permanent utility services or associated installations for maintenance or upgrading in accordance with the following criteria.

- 1 All landscape flora and fauna and cultural features established under other policy areas; cultural landscape, landscape character, Domain views, buildings and monuments shall be protected.
- 2 Protected features, buildings, sites, fountains and statues shall be avoided.
- 3 An environment assessment which addresses all impacts will be prepared for all utility services and facilities which go beyond regular maintenance, cause physical, cultural or visual disturbance and for which a resource consent is not required.

- 4 Any utility structures, installations or facilities must be kept to a minimum in frequency and size and designed in form, colour and materials which are in keeping with Domain values.
- 5 In-ground maintenance and excavation work should have rapid completion dates.
- 6 Work should occur between summer and winter sporting seasons, and all off peak periods wherever possible.
- 7 Suitable public advice, warning and protection for such work should occur well in advance of implementation.
- 8 Wherever possible utility services will be located in or adjacent to roads or tracks – refer plan.
- 9 Exclusive access rights through easements will generally not be agreed to for utility services or facilities.
- 10 Any temporary aboveground utility service will be assessed against these criteria.



## 10.0 Administration and statutory management

### 10.1 Policy statement

Administration and management includes the long term planning, financing, interpretation, promotion and the day to day maintenance of the Domain. Efficient administration will ensure effective management of the Domain which will in turn help to maintain the health and character of the resource and enjoyment of it by the public.

The Domain is administered by the Hobson Eastern Bays Area parks management of Auckland City under the guidance of the Recreation and Community Services Committee, with staff and contractors working in the various areas of the Domain, including the gardens, Wintergarden, Nursery, and sports fields.

The future planning and development of the Domain requires objective assessment of current management, and innovative and sensitive design, to ensure the unique character and balanced use of the Domain is continued.

A core group of technical officers within Council provide for the day to day management of the Domain with the assistance as necessary of specialist skills both within and outside of Council. This group will ensure Maori input, monitor the Domain Plan and make recommendations through approved channels to committees of Council. This plan establishes the framework for a public “Friends of the Domain” organisation which, through subscription, can be self-funding and provide a vehicle for stimulating public interests in the Domain.

The “Friends of the Domain” will provide for honorary trained “Docents” for guidance within the Domain and solicit corporate backing for specific projects agreed to under the plan.

All relevant Acts, local government bylaws, regulations, plan rules will continue to apply, i.e. the Auckland Domain Act 1987. Auckland City consolidated Bylaw 1991 (with special relevance of Part 12 Dog Control, Part 20 Public Places, Part 23 trading in Streets and Public Places). The operative (transitional) City of Auckland District Scheme provides for Recreation 4 and 5 zones within the Domain. The 1987 Act also provides for the making of bylaws to control activities within the Domain. The Reserves Act 1977 does not apply.

The legislation incorporated the cricket ground at the outset and provides for specific leases under defined terms to be granted to the Auckland Tennis Inc., Auckland Rugby League, Parnell Lawn Tennis Club, Auckland Bowling Club and the Auckland Institute and Museum Trust Board. The Council can lease the Domain Kiosk on a commercial catering basis and can also permit the cricket ground and Wintergardens to be used for appropriate functions. Minor commercial enterprises including refreshments can be permitted.

#### Policy 10.1

To ensure compliance with Auckland City policies and other relevant legislation in respect to management and operation of the Domain plan.

#### Implementation

- consult and prepare priorities for an annual plan of works and actions for the Domain

- ensure that policy is maintained in Council’s District Plan to prevent buildings and vegetation or structures (including signs) intruding on the visual sight lines from the Domain and Museum
- ensure that planting or development within the Domain does not obstruct significant views
- comply with all legislation, District Plan provisions and bylaws as it affects the Domain in all activity or actions
- comply in all respects with the requirements and limitations of the Auckland Domain Amendment Act (1987)

### Policy 10.2

To provide appropriate council management for the Auckland Domain

#### Implementation

- maintain within Council a core group of technical staff which can consider Domain Plan issues
- ensure that the core group draws from requisite skills, horticulture, landscape and architecture, management and planning under the direction of the Parks Manager Hobson Eastern Bays
- the group will assess requests for Domain use, recommend the annual works programme, make appropriation requests for the Corporate Annual Plan, provide a point of liaison for the “Friends of the Domain” and generally report to Council committees as required
- the Domain staff group will be responsible for keeping up to date records of Domain structures, monuments, paths and plants and their heritage / cultural values
- liaison with the Hobson Community Board will be maintained to ensure that community views are represented
- ensure continued liaison with the Museum
- ensure that all staff recognise that the Domain is in itself an archaeological site and that appropriate advice and authorities are sought for any work requiring ground disturbance except for routine maintenance such as flower beds and sports fields

### Policy 10.3

To promote and provide for a public “Friends of the Domain” group to provide for regular input.

#### Implementation

- the “Friends of the Domain” organisation will be fostered through direct promotions, incentive for Domain use and the opportunity to provide input to management decision
- the “Friends of the Domain” will be encouraged to be financially self supporting through public subscription, being an incorporated society and maintaining charitable trust status
- the “Friends of the Domain” will be able to seek appropriate funding from alternative sources for the implementation of works which are in accordance with the Domain Plan

- encouragement will be given to all interests to become members and work through the “Friends of the Domain” for liaison purposes
- liaison with Council through the core group will be a principle function of the “Friends of the Domain”
- the “Friends of the Domain” will, in addition to the public at large, be given the opportunity to participate in the annual plan process for the Domain
- the “Friends of the Domain” organisation will be encouraged to provide training for Docent guides who can interpret and assist to manage public interpretation of or activity within the Domain

#### **Policy 10.4**

To manage the current lease holdings in terms of the provisions of the Auckland Domain Act and current council leasing and licensing policies for recreation land.

#### **Implementation**

- no further permanent leases which alienate Domain land will be granted
- the terms of lease for the current occupiers where rights of renewal apply will be reviewed prior to their expiry date
- the continuation of the present leases with no rights of renewal beyond periods set by the Act will be considered prior to their termination dates
- to provide for the continuation of the Museum lease

#### **Policy 10.5**

To provide for user permits and concessions

#### **Implementation**

- permits for temporary concessions or events may be granted for the use of areas of the Domain in accordance with Public and Recreation use policy –6
- permits for special events may incur an additional bond or charge in respect to the potential for damage or the need for remedial works
- concessions may be granted in respect to refreshments and for wheeled transport compatible with Domain values

#### **Policy 10.6**

To review the Domain Plan at intervals no greater than five years.