

## **Attachment E – Parks Acquisition Strategies and Policies**

### **Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan 2013**

1. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan, 2013 focuses on creating a green network across Auckland by physically and visually connecting parks, open spaces and streets. The priorities for the next 10 years are to:
  - Create greenways across Auckland
  - See our streets as places
  - Create a regional trail network
  - Connect our natural areas
  - Link with the transport network
  - Use parks and open space to create attractive urban areas
2. Actions identified in the plan include:
  - (P3) Develop greenway plans for all local board areas that identify and prioritise opportunities to enhance connection between local destinations and provide recreational opportunities through streets, parks and open spaces.
  - (P4) Develop local park network plans for all local board areas base on analysis of the current network and that prioritise actions for improvement.
  - (P5) Develop a regional park network plan based on analysis of the current network and that prioritises actions for improvement.
  - (P6) Develop a regional open space network plan based on analysis of the provision of parks and open spaces across Auckland and outlines investment priorities at a regional scale.
  - (P7) Plan and implement a regional trail network that aims to provide destinations for walking and riding that will attract users from across Auckland and tourists.
  - (D5) prioritise upgrading and investment in new parks, open spaces and streetscapes in areas identified for growth (intensification and greenfield development) in the Auckland Unitary Plan.
  - (D6) Develop our network of walkways and cycleways through parks and open spaces to implement connections identified in greenway plans.

### **Parks and Open Space Acquisitions Policy 2013**

3. The Parks and Open Space Acquisition Policy sets the framework for acquiring new land for parks and open space.
4. The policy identifies four acquisition criteria and high and medium priorities. It also identifies matters that are “not a priority” within each of those criteria.
5. The high priorities within each of the criteria that are potentially relevant to utilising road reserve and/or unformed legal road as open space are outlined in the table below:

Criteria	High Priorities
Meeting community needs, now and in the future	<p>Land to increase the accessibility or capacity of the parks and open space network that serve areas identified as most change and significant change in the Auckland Development Strategy</p> <p>Land to meet a significant current and future need identified in a council endorsed needs assessment or parks and open space network plan.</p>
Connecting our parks and open space	<p>Land that will establish a significant area of contiguous park or open space that enhance recreation, ecological or landscape values.</p> <p>Land required to establish regional or sub-regional recreation connections (walkways, bike trails) identified in an endorsed council plan (e.g. greenways plan, parks and open space network plan).</p> <p>Riparian land (such as esplanade reserves) that provides access to or along the coast or waterways.</p> <p>Land that connects areas of habitat or significant ecological value.</p>
Protecting and restoring Auckland's unique features and meanings	<p>Land containing or protecting rare or threatened indigenous ecological values.</p> <p>Land containing historic heritage or cultural value, including taonga of significance to Mana Whenua, of regional significance or greater and that has public open space values.</p> <p>Land of geological or landscape value of regional significance or greater and that has public open space values.</p>
Improving the parks and open space we already have	<p>Land that will improve the accessibility and functionality of an existing park or open space that serves an area of most and significant change identified in the Auckland Development Strategy.</p> <p>Land that provides access to an existing park from an area with poor access to parks and open space.</p>

### Open Space Provision Policy 2016

6. The Open Space Provision Policy 2016 gives effect to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan. It informs the council's investment, asset and acquisition

activities in open space, and guides spatial planning by both the council and the private sector.

7. The focus for investment in open space in the existing urban areas is:
  - investing in the established open space network to offer a wider range of activities for more people;
  - improving linkages between open space, such as establishing greenways;
  - optimising assets through land exchange and reconfiguration;
  - acquiring new open spaces as opportunities allow, particularly in large brownfield developments.
8. The focus for investment in open space in greenfield areas is:
  - investing in new open space when growth occurs;
  - integrating open space with stormwater, transport, schools and community facilities;
  - creating a resilient and multi-functional open space network that can evolve with changing community needs over time;
  - connecting new and existing open space networks.
9. The policy sets out principles to deliver high quality parks and open spaces across the region. The principles align to the four areas of focus of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan – treasure, connect, enjoy and utilise.
10. The principles most relevant to the potential use of unformed legal roads and road reserve include:
  - *Provide regular access points to coastal open space networks and the foreshore from adjoining streets;*
  - *Locate corridors of multifunctional public space along the coast, streams and floodplains that provide for green infrastructure, conservation and recreation outcomes;*
  - *Form contiguous open space networks along waterways, the coastline and floodplains, particularly where esplanade reserves or green infrastructure corridors are required;*
  - *Retrofit linkages and improve access to open space in the existing urban area when opportunities arise;*
  - *Use greenways and 'green streets' with generous berms, street trees, wide footpaths and cycleways to connect parks and open spaces and create recreational circuits for walking, running and cycling;*
  - *Implement connections identified in greenway plans, walking and cycling strategies, or other spatial plans;*
  - *Ensure esplanade reserves are wide enough to provide for access and environmental outcomes. Expect to provide a 20-metre wide esplanade reserve or strip along all qualifying water bodies;*
  - *Integrate the design of civic space and adjoining streets to create larger spaces, and add interest to the street.*
11. The Open Space Provision Policy 2016 also contain metrics for the provision of open space.