



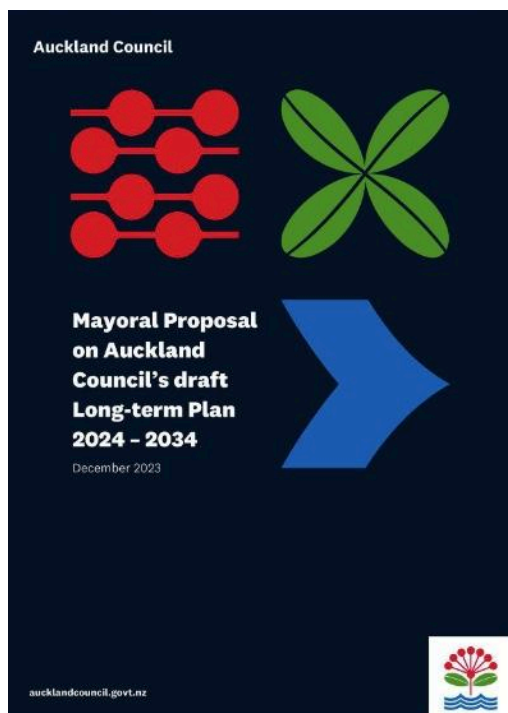
NEWSLETTER

March 2024

# Parks matters

## Auckland's Long Term Plan out for public comment

The Mayor's proposed 10 year budget outlines the vision and priorities for capital spending in Auckland from 2024 to 2034. It establishes the projects within regional parks that will be funded in the next ten years.



The recommendations of the Regional Parks Political Working Group (RPPWG) led by Cllr Lee are incorporated in the draft, including investigating adding regional parks in South Auckland (P9). In an effort to address high facilities maintenance costs the Mayor suggests encouraging "in-house rangers and volunteer providers to deliver maintenance and minor capital works" in regional parks (P22).

P46 outlines the specific proposals by the RPPWG the Mayor wants implemented:

- a. Review regional park operations to ensure best-value for money from external contract and in-park ranger operations.
- b. Investigate options to acquire land for a new regional park to support growth in the south of the Auckland region. This could look at making a regional park out of existing land at Puhinui/Stonefields-Otuataua or acquiring one on the west coast between Awhitu and Port Waikato.
- c. Building cooperation between the regional parks network and mana whenua-owner Tupuna Maunga whenua.
- d. Mana whenua are involved in the preparation and engagement of all plans in regional parks.
- e. Review track upgrade engineering methodologies to ensure resilience and functionality.
- f. Safeguard all regional parks' legal protection.

The Mayor is also seeking input into Council activities that should no longer be funded.

FOR Parks is preparing a submission which will include requests for funding for implementation of the Regional Parks Management Plan, especially developing the recreation and track plans for both the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges Regional Parks.

We encourage our members to make submissions on the plan supporting increased spending on regional parks, in particular implementing the Management Plan and purchasing additional regional parks to meet planned population growth.

Consultation on the plan opens 28 February and closes 28 March 2024.

You can find the proposed budget, the schedule for question and feedback sessions across Auckland and ways to have input into the the draft here:

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/hub-page/long-term-plan-2024-2034>

## **Have you visited Duder Regional Park recently?**

Located just 10 kms from the Clevedon roundabout, Duder Regional Park is a farm park on a peninsula set in the Hauraki Gulf. Enjoy walking the tracks through bush and farmland and venture up to the pa site with stunning views across islands in the Gulf. For the more adventurous, some paths are suitable for mountain bikes and horse riders or try the orienteering course.

Those of you who like to cycle may want to consider accessing Duder Regional Park via Fullers ferry from downtown Auckland to Pine Harbour. A pleasant bike path takes you for a short ride through nearby Omana Regional Park and then on to Maraetai Beach, from there it is then a further easy 15 minute ride to the park. There are plenty of places to lock bikes at the Park entrances.

Reward yourself with a picnic and swim at one of the safe, peaceful beaches and enjoy watching the shorebirds. Take your kayak and paddle the coast. There's a campground for sea kayakers on Te Ara Moana, the 50 km sea kayak path which links five regional parks along the coast.



To help you plan your visit and find out more about the park, check out <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parkmaps/map-duder-regional-park.pdf>

FOR Parks mourns the passing of Ross Duder and his sister-in-law Mary, of the Duder family who farmed the Duder regional park property. Ross was a long time, enthusiastic supporter of regional parks and FOR Parks. Our condolences go to the extended Duder family on their losses.

## Te Kawerau a Maki proposes sanctuary within Waitakere Ranges Regional Park



Figure 1: Proposed Heart of the Ngahere Sanctuary

Te Kawerau ā Maki is proposing a ‘heart of the ngahere’ sanctuary be created within the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. In their proposal it states “A pest-free sanctuary at the heart of the forest would provide a reservoir of life and mauri that support biodiversity, a stable climate and water security – if the heart thrives it will enable biodiversity to ‘spill over’ into the more compromised edges of the forest.” The proposal also includes a track plan for the park which would see more tracks reopened but would not include tracks in the interior of the park. It also proposes “a new multi-day Waitakere Ranges circumference hike across regional and local tracks and greenways.”

You can read the proposal here and view the map with the proposed sanctuary area and track network here:

<https://tekawerau.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/wrha-heart-of-the-ngahere-proposal-2023-1.pdf>

FOR Parks is meeting with Te Kawerau ā Maki to gain a better understanding of the proposal and hopefully develop a relationship with them to work together on implementation of the Regional Parks Management Plan (RPMP). We believe Te Kawerau’s proposal should be considered within one of the top action items called for in the RPMP, that of preparing a recreation and track plan for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park in conjunction with iwi and the public.

## OUR WORK

### FOR Parks requests updates on Rec Plans and RPMP

In February FOR Parks wrote to Phil Wilson, Chief Executive of Auckland Council, requesting a copy of the annual report on implementation of the Regional Parks Management Plan (RPMP) and an update on developing the Recreation and Track Plan for the Waitakere Ranges, which was one of the high priority action items identified in the RPMP. We also offered to assist Council with preparation of this plan.

In a reply to our letter, Taryn Crewe, general manager of Parks and Community Facilities, says implementation of the Plan is delayed by last year's weather events. She says "We have planned to provide the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee with an annual update on the implementation and actions in the RPMP at a committee meeting in April." She committed to providing FOR Parks a copy of this report.

Scott DeSilva (regional parks) and Tristine LeGuern (Planning) will be meeting with FOR Parks in early March and will discuss progress on the recreation and track plan and ways in which FOR Parks can work with Council. This meeting reinstates regular meetings FOR Parks was having with Scott prior to last year's storms.

Beginning the recreation and track planning for the Waitakere RRP is a high priority for FOR Parks because of rapidly growing park use and issues of overuse in some areas. This plan has to be completed before a similar one can be done for the Hunua Ranges regional parks.

## **FOR Parks buys native trees for planting at Te Muri**

Last year Roger White walked 65 kms in a day and raised funds for FOR Parks to purchase larger native trees for planting at Te Muri. We have added funds and have purchased over 300 PB8 kahikatea, kohekohe, kowhai and totara trees which we plan to plant in Te Muri in July. We hope to purchase and plant a similar number of larger trees next year as well.

Thanks again to Roger for his fundraising efforts!



# UPCOMING events

## **Roaming with a ranger at Arataki 23rd March**

Join Ranger Brendan for a guided walk around the Arataki Visitor Centre for Eco Fest 2024. Starting with a talk on the beautiful back decks at the Arataki Visitor Centre, Brendan will then guide you on a short walk to the Arataki Nursery where you'll learn about the variety of native seeds and plants cultivated there and have a go at some planting yourself!

Whanau friendly, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Spaces are limited for this event. Secure your ticket with this link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/roaming-with-a-ranger>





## Learn more about TOSSI's work on 16th March



Find out what Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society is up to at the Warkworth A & P show. And while you're there check out the incredible environmental work being done by so many volunteer groups in Rodney.

With kind regards,  
Bronwen Turner, Chair  
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