



Muriwai Design Guidelines

Auckland Regional Council

September 2009

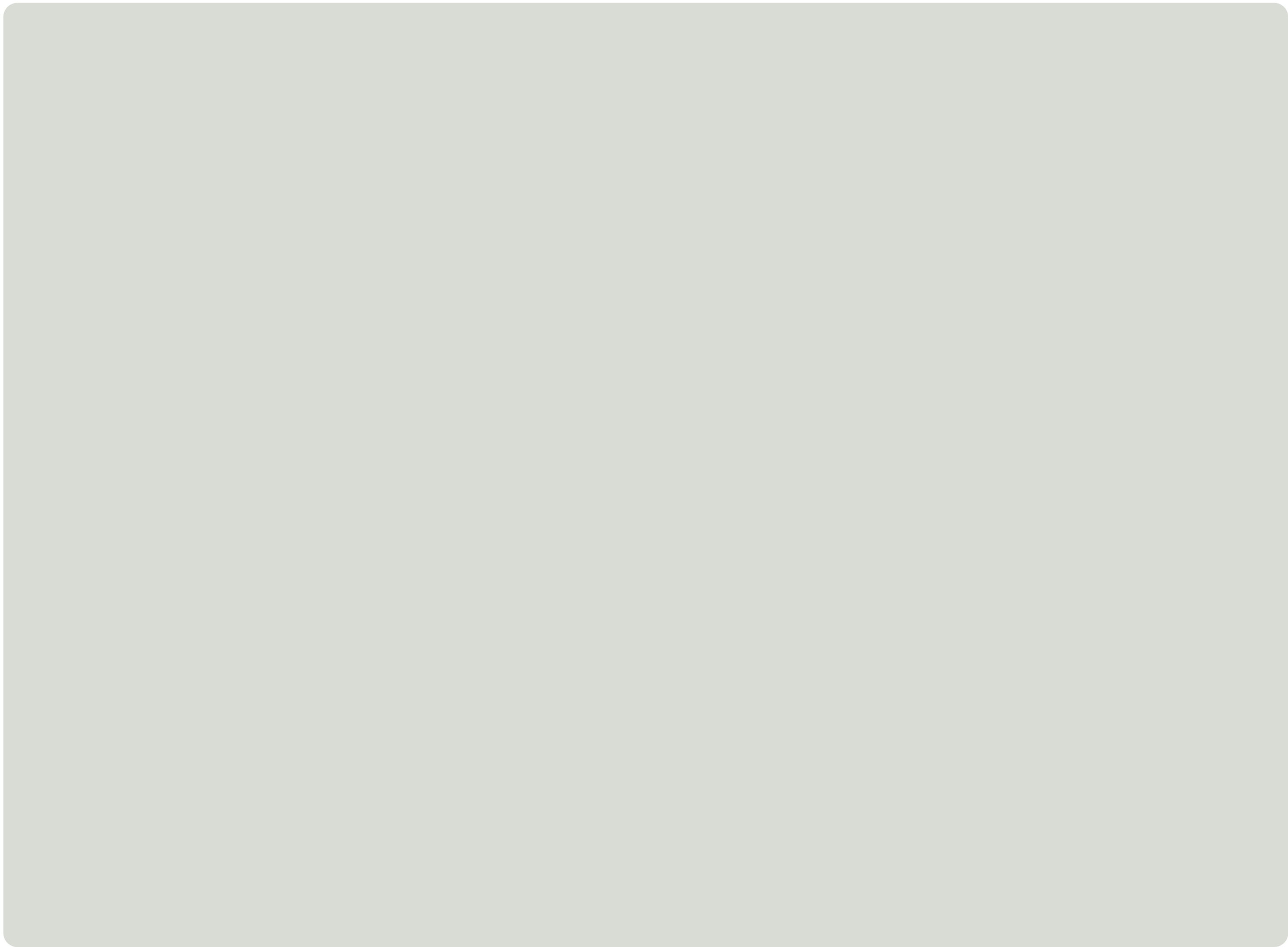




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Introduction to Muriwai Design Guidelines

SECTION

01



Introduction

Muriwai is recognised as having unique natural, aesthetic and spatial qualities. The overall objective and purpose to be considered when exercising any development or activities on the park is to ensure that those qualities are conserved and enhanced while continuing to provide for the well-being of visitors and residents.

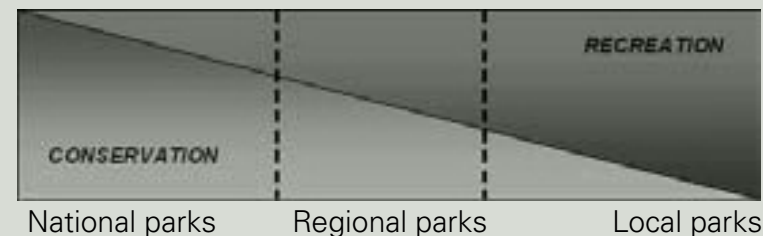
These guidelines are designed to assist ARC park rangers and agents employed to undertake development and maintenance at Muriwai Regional Park. In the past, design solutions to structures or problem areas have been individually applied, leaving a piecemeal and sometimes un-co-ordinated design result. The design guidelines are designed to act as a checklist rather than as a specification. This ensures that the environmental context of the proposed development is considered before the final proposal is made.

To remain relevant within the changing Muriwai environment, these guidelines aim to be a living document. To enable this, photographic records of works completed, innovative design, and construction techniques can be filed in the sleeve provided. The guidelines have been developed in conjunction with ARC park rangers, Rodney District Council (RDC), iwi, and the local Muriwai community.

Role of Auckland Regional Parks

Auckland regional parks are part of a network of parks and reserves that serve a regional population of 1.3 million people. Regional parks sit in the centre of a spectrum between national parks, owned and managed by the Department of Conservation with their primary emphasis on the conservation of wildlife and habitats, and the local authority parks and reserves, with their emphasis on meeting the amenity and sporting needs of local communities. See diagram below.

New Zealand Open Space Spectrum



Regional parks are places where people can enjoy pristine natural settings that are relatively “untouched”. Regional parks are about informal recreation in large natural settings that offer respite from the stresses of everyday life.

The level of development and the type and scale of infrastructure on regional parks is generally limited to that which is necessary to serve their primary purpose – informal recreation in large natural settings.

Role of Auckland Regional Council

Muriwai Regional Park is Crown owned land that has been vested to the ARC for management purposes. The role of the ARC is to manage the park for recreation, protect the natural environment and provide the planning framework.



Extent of Muriwai Regional Park Land



Extent of Rodney District Council Land

Role of Rodney District Council

The regulatory role of RDC as the local authority, is to deliver services such as water supply, sewage treatment, libraries, waste disposal and road maintenance. RDC is also responsible for providing pedestrian and vehicle access to Muriwai without compromising the long term ecological and recreational values of the park.

The general purpose of the Muriwai Community Plan (adopted in 2005 by RDC) is to:

- recognise the unique characteristics of the Muriwai

- community and environment,
- define a vision for the future growth and development of the area and its township,
- provide an overall framework for growth management commensurate with the area’s capacity to sustain development and the community’s desired approach to managing that growth,
- provide a guideline for the integration of the physical components (eg land use, engineering services, roads) of future development.

Role of Muriwai

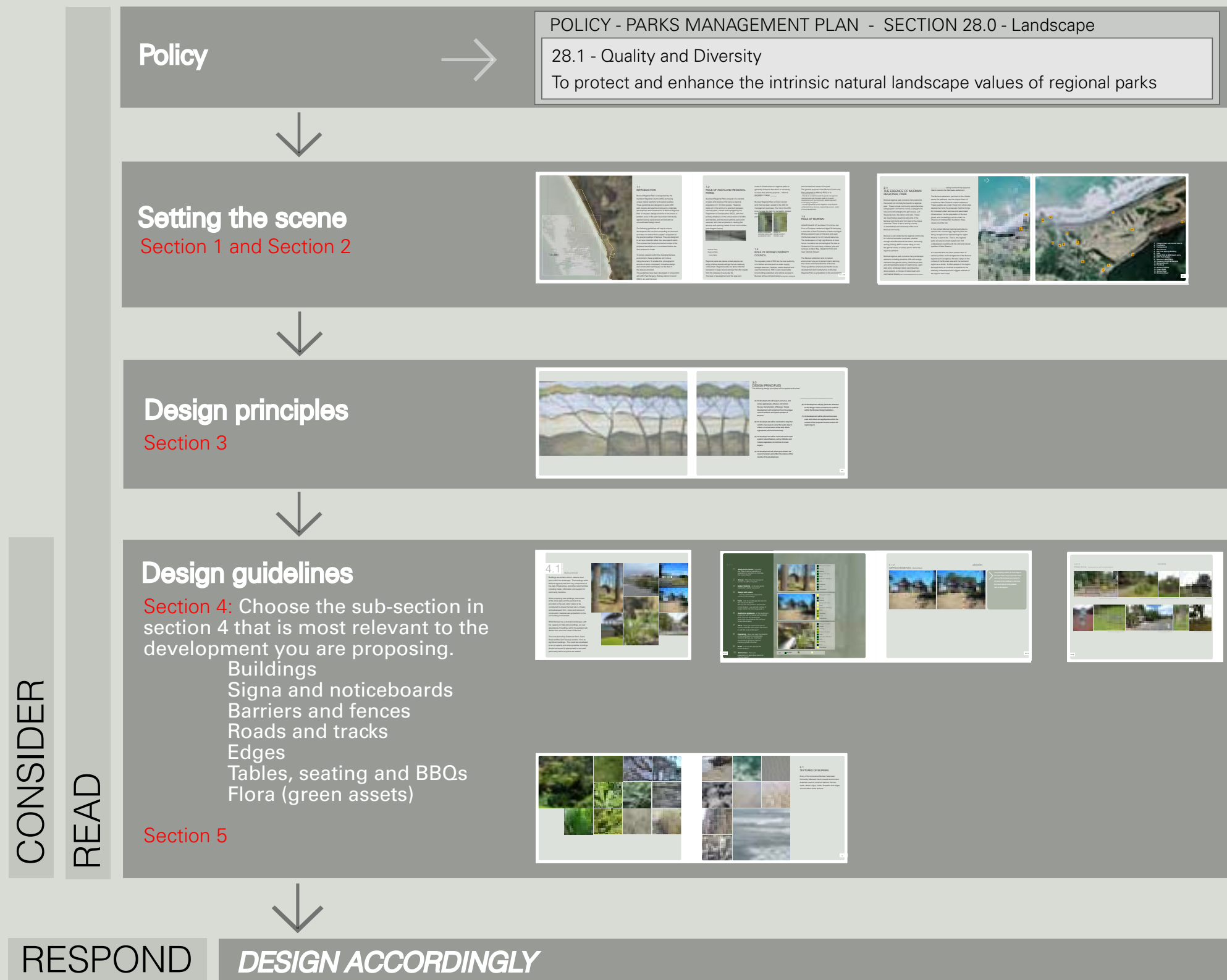
Significance of Muriwai to local iwi

Tangata Whenua hold strong cultural and historical connections to Muriwai. Prior to European settlement Ngati Te Kahupara, a sub tribe of both Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua descent lived on the land and used the Muriwai area for its rich natural resources. The landscape is of high significance to local iwi as it contains two archeological Pa sites at Otakamiro Point and many middens, pits and terraces at Maukatia (Māori Bay), Otakamiro Point and near Okiritoto Stream (Refer to Section 5).

The Muriwai community plays an important role in defining the values and characteristics of Muriwai. These guidelines will ensure that future development and maintenance on Muriwai Regional Park is sympathetic to this environment.

How to use the Muriwai Design Guidelines

The Muriwai Design Guidelines are to be used by Auckland Regional Council officers for the purpose of developing any works including infrastructure, planting and signage on Muriwai Regional Park.







The Essence of Muriwai Regional Park

SECTION

02

The Essence of Muriwai Regional Park

Muriwai Regional Park contains many elements that would not normally be found in a regional park. These include community sports facilities, the Village Green and tennis courts, a playground, fully serviced campground, golf course, surf life saving club, fire station and café. These are nevertheless essential elements of the Muriwai community and form part of its unique character. There is also a strong a sense of stewardship and ownership by the local Muriwai community.

Muriwai is well visited by the regional community for informal recreation purposes, whether for activities around the beach (swimming, surfing, fishing, horse riding, visiting the gannet colony, picnicking within the Regional Park) or providing access to the beach (including 4WD access).

Muriwai Regional Park contains many landscape elements including shoreline cliffs with a large hinterland that hosts a gannet colony, historical pa sites and archaeological areas of significance, open park land, windswept black sand beaches, dune systems, a mixture of native bush, and commercial forestry areas. The surrounding Muriwai community is built on a bush covered hillside that rises to the Waimauku plateau, with rolling farmland that expands inland towards the Waimauku settlement.

The Muriwai settlement, perched on the hillside above the parkland, has the simple charm of a traditional New Zealand coastal settlement. These qualities are under threat from urban-style, quirky and sometimes large houses and redevelopment that puts pressure on increased urban services and associated infrastructure. As the population of Muriwai grows, and increasingly comes under the influence of metropolitan Auckland, these values could be lost.

In this context Muriwai Regional Park plays a special role. Increasingly, regional parks are being recognised as representing the region the way it used to be. That is, the regional parks are places where people can find undeveloped coastline with the wild and natural qualities of New Zealand.

It is essential that the Regional Park natural qualities and open space values are managed to recognise the role the park plays in the context of the Muriwai Area and the Auckland region as a whole. Muriwai offers people of the region the opportunity to continue to experience the relatively undeveloped and rugged wildness of the regions west coast.





- 1 Village green and tennis courts
- 2 Firestation
- 3 Campground
- 4 Golf course
- 5 Surf life saving building
- 6 Cafe
- 7 Horse park and 4WD beach entry
- 8 ARC park depot
- 9 Maukatia (Maori Bay)
- 10 Otakamiro Point and Gannets
- 11 Muriwai Beach
- 12 Flat Rock
- 13 Motutara Island
- 14 Coast Road
- 15 Waitea Road
- 16 Motutara Road
- 17 Pillow Lava Formations

Muriwai Regional Park is approached through the rolling farmland of the Waimauku Plateau.

The descent down Waitea Road offers the visitor wide open panoramic views over the Tasman Sea, glimpses of the expansive beach and parkland stretching to the north.





Muriwai Beach is situated on a wild, exposed and dynamic coastline. The forces of nature are evident everywhere through the vast sweep of the exposed beach, the wind and crashing waves. The ever-eroding and accreting black sands are a constant reminder of such forces. It is a place where people can find an undeveloped coastline exhibiting the wild natural qualities of New Zealand.





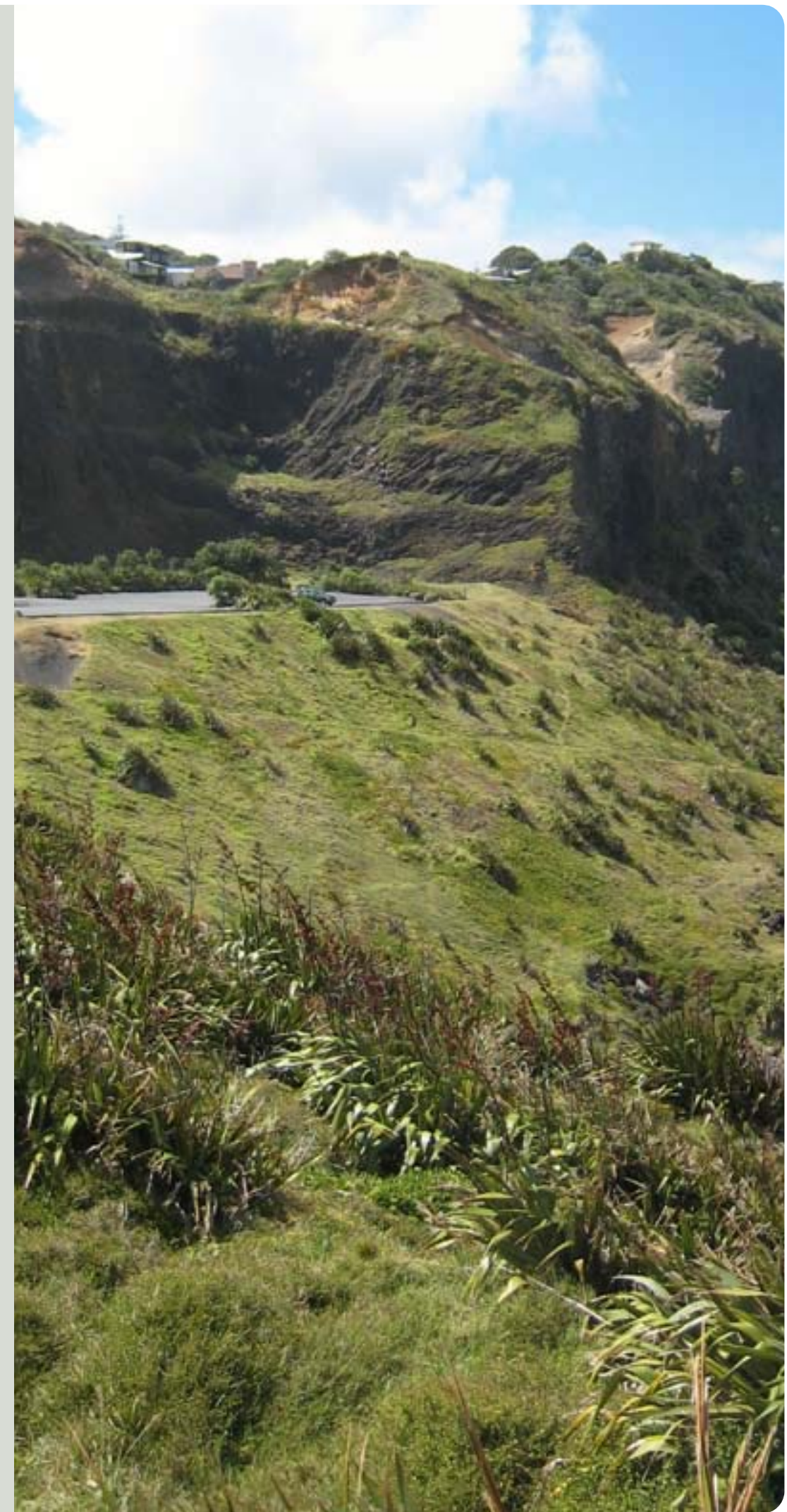
Otakamiro Point is vegetated with remnant coastal pohutukawa forest and large flax bushes through which tracks weave to elevated observation points and platforms overlooking the gannet colony. This is an intimate and closed landscape with a number of windows offering panoramic views of the beach and Tasman Sea.

Muriwai is home to a wide range of birds but it is the gannets (takapu) that most visitors come to see. Two viewing platforms provide great vantage points to take in the spectacular location and watch the gannets. The birds return here between July and October to re-establish contact with their life long mates.



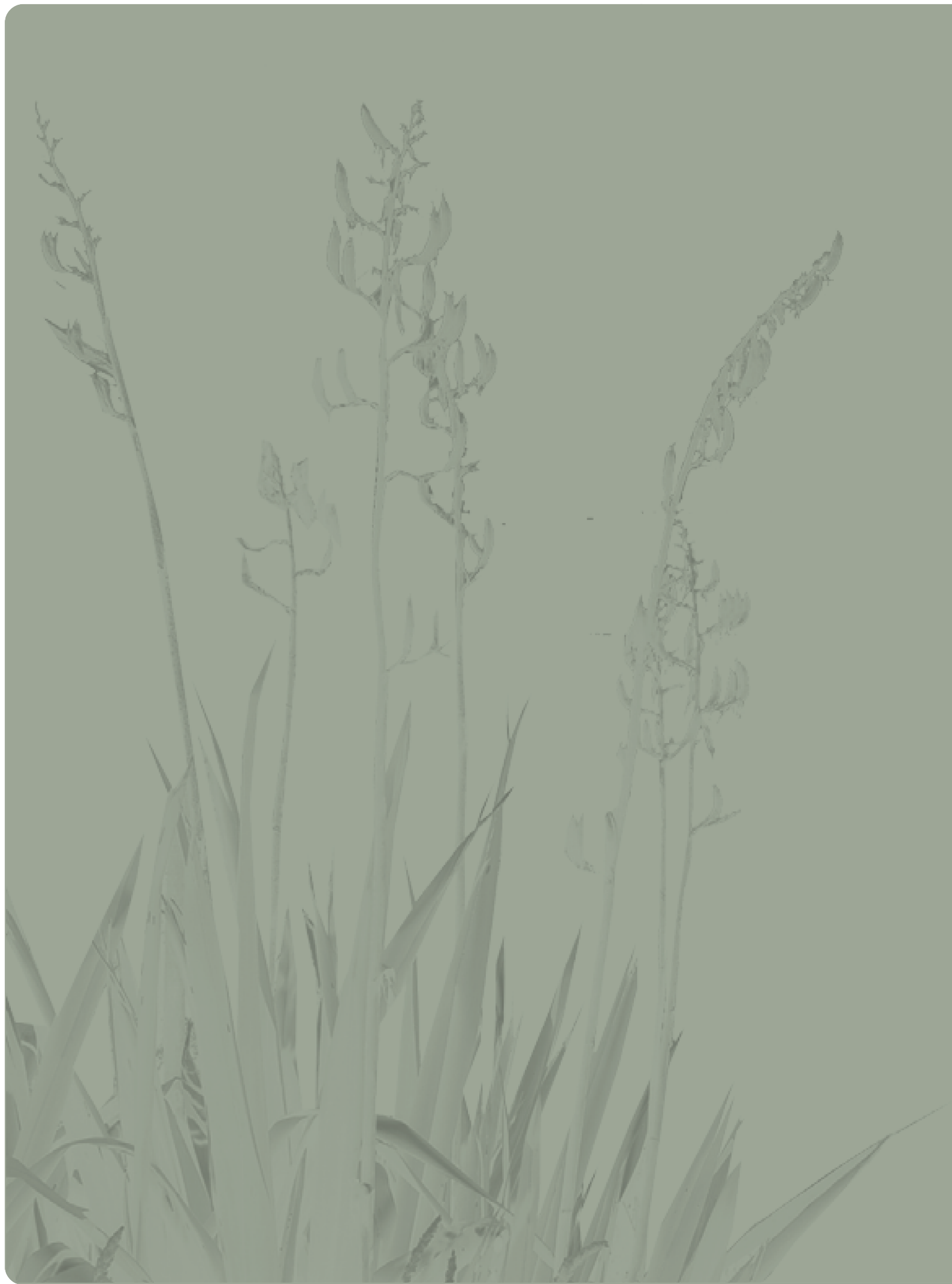


Maukatia (Māori Bay) is contained to the south by the large disused quarry that displays unique geological features; the pillow lava formations. At the base of the quarry is a car park that overlooks the popular surf beach and looks towards Otakamiro Point and the gannet colony. This is a vantage point with a hard setting of natural stone softened only by flax and low coastal shrubs.









Design Principles

SECTION

03



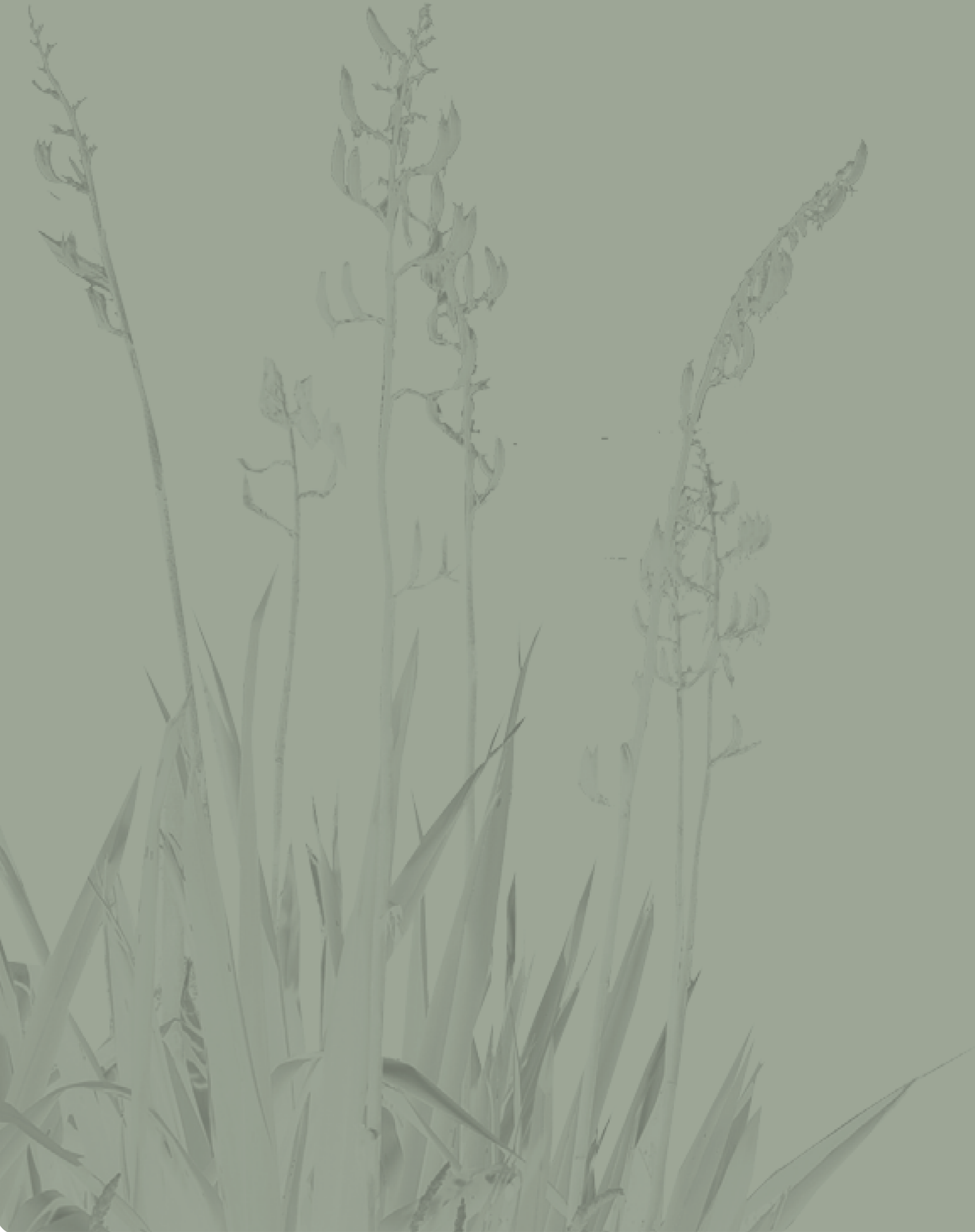


Design Principles

The following design principles will be applied at Muriwai:

- (1) All development will respect, conserve, and where appropriate, enhance and restore the key characteristics of Muriwai. Future development will not detract from the unique natural aesthetic and spatial qualities of Muriwai.
- (2) All development will be restricted to only that which is necessary to serve the needs of park visitors or conservation values and, where appropriate, the local community.
- (3) All development will be clustered and located against natural features, such as hillsides and mature vegetation, to minimise the visual impact taking care not to block view shafts at a human scale.
- (4) All development will, where practicable, use natural materials and reflect the materials of the locality of the development.
- (5) Existing structures (including signs, railings, planting surrounds etc) that no longer serve a demonstrable purpose will be removed as budget and resources are available.
- (6) All development will be planned to ensure scale and colours are appropriate to the context of the proposal's location within the regional park.
- (7) All development will pay particular attention to the design criteria and elements outlined within the Muriwai Design Guidelines.
- (8) All development where possible will avoid multiple structures, formalisation through straight lines, hard surfaces and edges, road markings and urban elements.

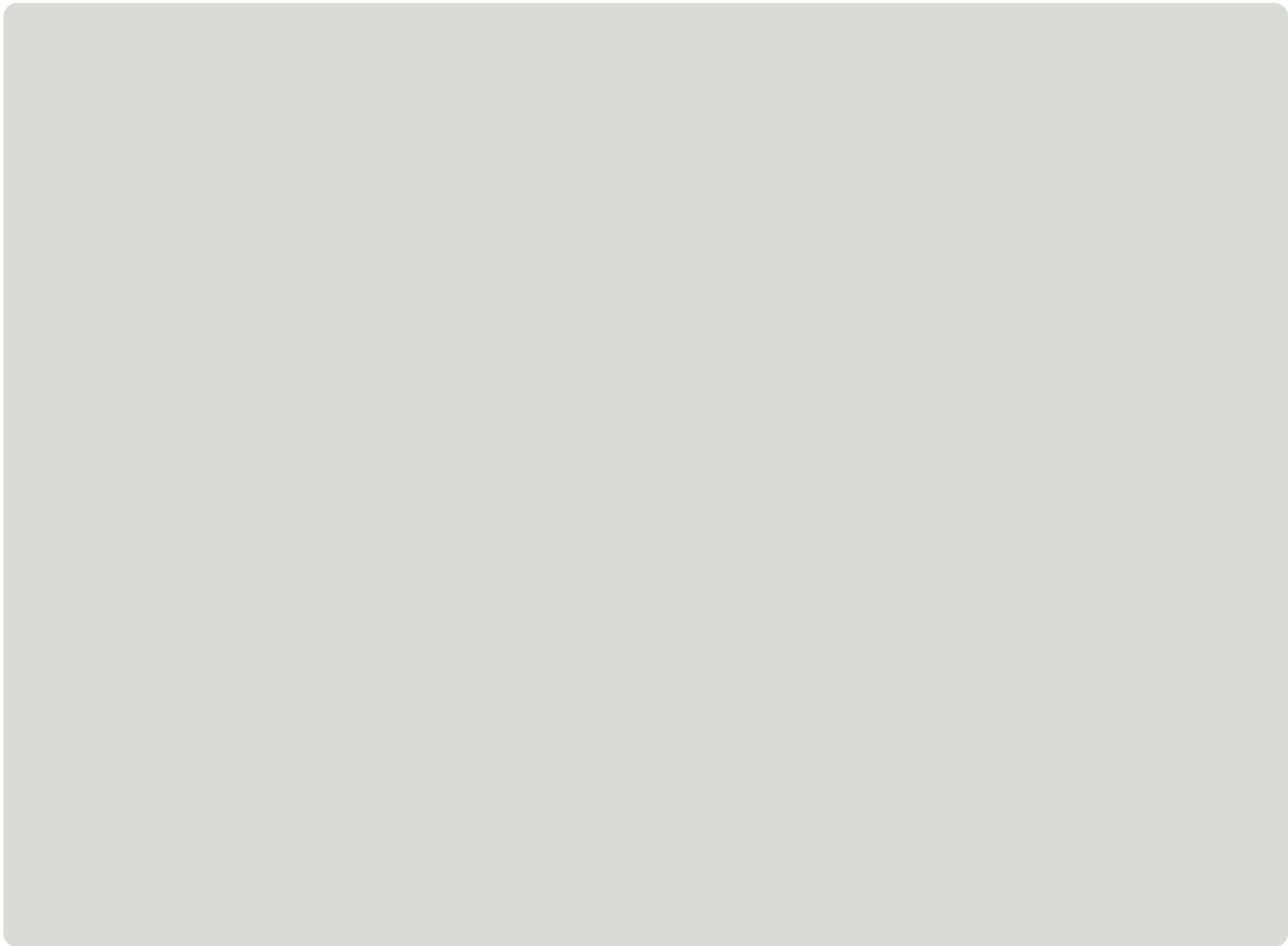




Design Guidelines

SECTION

04



Buildings

Buildings are artifacts which create a focal point within the landscape. The buildings within Muriwai Regional Park form key components of the park infrastructure, providing visitor facilities including toilets, information and support for community functions.

When proposing new buildings, the context of the whole park and the service to be provided to the park visitor needs to be considered to ensure the best site is chosen, and subsequent form, colour and texture of construction materials are sympathetic to the surrounding environment.

While Muriwai has a dramatic landscape, with the capacity to hide some buildings, an over-abundance of buildings within the park land will detract from the core values of Muriwai.

The zone (bound by Otakamiro Point, Coast Road and the golf course) contains 12 or so significant buildings. This could be considered to be at capacity and where possible, buildings should be reused (if appropriate) or removed, particularly before anymore are added.



Design Criteria: Buildings

- 1 **Siting and location** - Does the site have a natural backdrop of vegetation or landform to minimise the visual impact?
- 2 **Access** - Does the site have good access to paths/ car parks.
- 3 **Safety and visibility** - Is the site clearly visible from paths/ car parks?
- 4 **Design with nature** - Are any earthworks required to construct the building?
- 5 **Form** - Can the buildings be tied into the natural landform? (Ensure the roof profile is appropriate to the location - use a small number of peaks rather than one large peak.)
- 6 **Aesthetics and balance** - Is the building in proportion with its natural surroundings, does it sit into the landscape? (Flat roofs should follow the contours where practicable).
- 7 **Colour and texture** - Have you used local cues to source materials and colours that blend in with the local landscape?
- 8 **Clustering** - Have you kept the footprint of the buildings to a practicable minimum and have you minimised structures by grouping them or combining them into one?
- 9 **Scale** - Is the scale appropriate to the location? Does it retain view lines to nearby features or tracks?
- 10 **Alternatives** - Have you assessed any alternative sites that may be better?



- Siting and location
- Access
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Access
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Access
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Scale
- Alternatives

> Comment:
Danger of rock falls (inappropriate placement of toilet block next to cliff)

KEY excellent adequate not adequate

Design Improvements: Buildings



Before



After

Low plantings soften the front edge of the toilet block. Larger specimen trees such as pohutukawa are planted to the back of the buildings to minimise the visual impact of the peaked roof on the skyline.

Good Practice: Buildings



Wenderholm Regional Park



Cascade Kauri, Waitakere



Piha



Wenderholm Regional Park



Pavilion



Grassed roof



Roof garden



Arataki Visitor Centre

Signs and Noticeboards

Signs and noticeboards are important at Muriwai to inform people of the unique features in the park and to warn of the possible dangers of such a wild and untamed coastline.

In many instances, the signs tend to dominate the landscape and override people's natural instincts to keep away from unsafe environments.

A visitor to the park should be able to make appropriate, safe choices without the need for multiple warning signs in the park.

The challenge is to provide clear and visible signage and warning of potential danger without significantly detracting from the natural landscape.



Design Criteria: Signs and Noticeboards

- 1 **Siting and location** - Is there a natural backdrop of vegetation or landform? (make sure that the sign doesn't obscure views).
- 2 **Accessibility** - Is the sign accessible ie can the sign be easily read and interpreted by all?
- 3 **Visibility** - Is the sign clearly visible from paths and car parks but retains view lines?
- 4 **Design with nature** - Does the sign sit into its landscape rather than dominate it?
- 5 **Form** - Is the form of the sign and its structure appropriate to the information being conveyed?
- 6 **Aesthetics and balance** - Is the sign in proportion with its surroundings?
- 7 **Colour and texture** - Have you used local cues to source materials and colours that blend in with the local landscape?
- 8 **Clustering** - Has information been combined into one sign? (where individual signs are not necessary).
- 9 **Appropriateness** - Does the sign - its size colours and information conform with the requirements of the ARC's sign manual?
- 10 **Alternatives** - Have alternative options been explored for both the sign and its location?



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Appropriateness
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Appropriateness
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Clustering
- Appropriateness
- Alternatives

KEY ■ excellent ■ adequate ■ not adequate

Design Improvements: Signs and Noticeboards



Before



After

➤ The signs are now placed against a natural backdrop of landform and vegetation (*Phormium tenax*). Clustering the signs minimises their intrusion on the landscape. The slight colour change of the red sign to a softer maroon/brown complements the natural colouring of the flax flower heads.



Before



After

➤ The sign is now placed to one side of the main viewshaft onto Muriwai Beach. Planting behind the structure softens its intrusion on the landscape. The sign is placed appropriately beside the beach entrance so that it can be conveniently interpreted by visitors.

Good Practice: Signs and Noticeboards



Wenderholm Regional Park



Wenderholm Regional Park



Wenderholm Regional Park



Whatipu Regional Park



Cascade Kauri



Montana Heritage Trail



Tawharanui Regional Park



Omana Regional Park



Tawharanui Regional Park

Barriers and Fences

Safety of park visitors is a high priority at Muriwai. ARC is required to provide infrastructure in a manner to facilitate safe park use, whilst not over-emphasising a particular message or significantly detracting from the natural settings. Therefore, appropriate demarcation of environmentally protected areas or safe and unsafe areas through barriers and fences is required, to enable the park visitor to make appropriate choices within the park.



Design Criteria: Barriers and Fences

- 1 **Siting and location** - Is there a natural backdrop of vegetation or landform to the barrier or fence?
- 2 **Accessibility** - Does it effectively demarcate unsafe/no-go areas as well as allowing adequate accessibility to the beach or building?
- 3 **Visibility** - Does the barrier/fence restrict views?
- 4 **Design with nature** - Does the barrier/fence sit into its landscape rather than dominate it?
- 5 **Form** - Is the form of the barrier/fence appropriate for its purpose? Avoid unnecessary complex structures such as multi-rail or multi-wire fences where a single rail or wire would suffice.
- 6 **Aesthetics and balance** - Is the structure in proportion with its surroundings?
- 7 **Colour and texture** - Have you used local cues to source materials and colours that blend in with the local landscape?
- 8 **Scale** - Is the scale of the structure appropriate to the location?
- 9 **Alternatives** - Have alternative options been explored? Is existing vegetation large enough to form a natural barrier? (is the structure even required?)



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives

Design Improvements: Barriers and Fences



Before



After



Lowering the barrier enables the horizon to be maintained and views out to the sea to be enhanced. Existing vegetation is prominent enough to create a natural barrier. The remaining low structural barrier effectively demarcates the “no-go” area near the cliff face.



Before



After



Bollards are removed in this instance because they are not required. Low planting of grasses softens the harsh horizontal line of the barrier while maintaining foot traffic access.

Design Exemplars: Barriers and Fences



Waitakere Ranges



Wenderholm Regional Park



Long Bay Regional Park



Wenderholm Regional Park



Piha



Piha



Piha



Tawharanui Regional Park



Maungakiekie, One Tree Hill

Roads and Tracks

Muriwai is linked by various roads and tracks owned by ARC and RDC. It is important that these existing and any additional hard surfaces fit within the Muriwai environment and facilitate movement through the area.



Design Criteria: Roads and Tracks

- 1 **Siting and location** - Is the road or track surrounded by vegetation or landform that minimises its effect on the landscape?
- 2 **Accessibility** - Do the roads/ tracks provide good access to the beach/ buildings and destination?
- 3 **Design with nature** - Do the surfaces cause minimal noise and visual reflection impact on the local environment? (Avoid reflective or shiny surfaces, and avoid painting road and track surfaces that are not legally required).
- 4 **Form** - Is the form of the road or track appropriate for its purpose? Avoid unnecessary complex structures.
- 5 **Aesthetics and balance** - Is the road or track in proportion with its surroundings?
- 6 **Colour and texture** - Do the surfaces use locally available materials wherever practicable or ensure they reflect the colour and texture of the locality?
- 7 **Alternatives** - Have alternative options been explored for the siting, location and surface of the road or track?



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Alternatives



- Siting and location
- Accessibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Aesthetics and balance
- Colour and texture
- Alternatives

KEY ■ excellent ■ adequate ■ not adequate

Design Improvements: Roads and Tracks



Before



After



Visual reflection and glare of the white sandstone surface is minimised by mixing the locally sourced white sandstone with a darker aggregate. The chosen mix resonates with the colours and materials of the local Muriwai environment.



Before



After



Planting with *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (pohuehue) between directional structures reduces the extensive gravel clearing and softens the intrusion of the bollards on the flat landscape.

Design Exemplars: Roads and Tracks



Piha

Piha



Scandrett Regional Park



Scandrett Regional Park



Cornwallis Regional Park



Wenderholm Regional Park

Edges

As Muriwai's landscape is strongly influenced by its location on the rugged and wild west coast, edges are very natural and generally non-linear or structured. The sand merges into every corner; grass grows into the edges of the roads; only the strongest dominant ecosystems survive. This naturalness needs to be considered when defining new areas or developments within the park.

Edges need to consider the design purpose within its location ie stormwater measures and sufficiency of natural lighting need to be considered. (refer to earlier design principles - Section 3: Principle 8 "avoid formalisation through straight lines")



Design Criteria: Edges

- 1 **Safety and visibility** - Does the edge of the car park or building ensure the safety and security of visitors? ie dense planting can affect safety.
- 2 **Design with nature** - Does the edge sit into the landscape rather than dominate it? Are bollards or other structure required? (wherever possible remove structures where the vegetation or landform will suffice).
- 3 **Form** - Is the form of the edge appropriate to the function it provides?
- 4 **Colour and texture** - Have you used local cues to source materials and colours that blend in with the local landscape? Use natural local materials such as rocks, mounds and vegetation to articulate edges where practical.
- 5 **Scale** - Is the scale appropriate to the location?
- 6 **Alternatives** - Have you assessed any edge designs that may be better?



- Safety and visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Safety and visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives



- Safety and visibility
- Design with nature
- Form
- Colour and texture
- Scale
- Alternatives

KEY ■ excellent ■ adequate ■ not adequate

Design Improvements: Edges



Before



After

To minimise the obtrusive nature of the extensive retaining wall, *Cordyline australis* and *Phormium tenax* have been planted to soften the edge and blend with the colours and materials of the local landscape.

Good Practice: Edges



Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens



Maungakiekie, One Tree Hill



Muriwai Regional Park



Muriwai Regional Park



Piha



Tawharanui Regional Park



Arataki Visitor Centre



Tawharanui Regional Park

Tables, Seating and BBQs

Muriwai Regional Park provides many recreational structures for the enjoyment of visitors. These include electric BBQs, picnic tables and seating.

The purpose of a recreational structure and how well it fits into the landscape should be considered simultaneously when designing and implementing.



Design Criteria: Tables, Seating and BBQs

- 1 **Siting and location** - Does the site for the structure have a natural backdrop of vegetation or landform to minimise visual impact?
- 2 **Accessibility and usability** - Is this a logical resting/ recreation place? Does it have a pleasant outlook? Is the structure going to be easily maintained in that location to ensure continued usability? Does the site have good access to paths and car parks?
- 3 **Visibility** - Is the structure clearly visible from paths, car parks or other vantage points but not blocking views?
- 4 **Design with nature** - Is significant removal of vegetation and earthworks involved?
- 6 **Aesthetics and balance** - Is the structure in proportion with its surroundings? Does the structure sit into its landscape rather than dominate it?
- 7 **Colour and texture** - Have you used local cues to source materials and colours that blend in with the local landscape?
- 8 **Clustering** - Have you minimised structures by grouping them?
- 5 **Scale** - Is the scale of the structure appropriate to the location?
- 9 **Alternatives** - Have you accessed any alternative sites, colours and materials that may be better?



- Siting and location
- Accessibility and usability
- Visibility
- Design with nature
- Aesthetics and balance
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- Alternatives



- Siting and location
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KEY excellent adequate not adequate

Design Improvements: Tables, Seating and BBQs



Before



After



A natural backdrop of vegetation minimises the visual intrusion of the seat on such a high, prominent landscape. A more appropriate colour choice for the seat also minimises impact.



Before



After



The concrete pad has been removed and the table has been positioned further back against the cliff. Low lying planting of flax on the inland side of the picnic table reduces the negative impact of the structure on the raised landscape as well as maintaining the impressive view shafts from the picnic site.

Good Practice: Tables, Seating and BBQs



Arataki Visitor Centre



Glen Esk, Piha



Piha



Piha

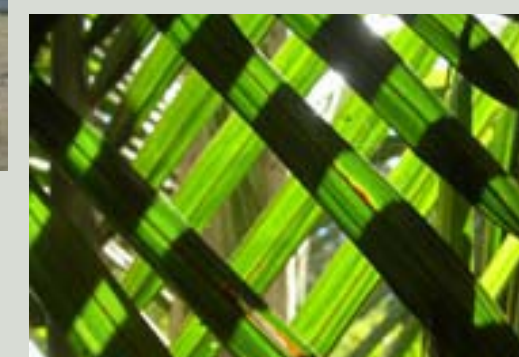


Flora (Green Assets)

The type, extent and growth ability of the flora (green assets) at Muriwai is dictated by the harsh coastal environment, prevailing westerly winds off the Tasman Sea. Within the exposed coastal fringe, only the strongest species will survive and grow in a manner that is shaped by the challenging environment.

Pohutukawa and flaxes are dominant on Otakamiro Point, macrocarpas within the northern picnic area, spinifex planted along the dunes, pines within the northern car park and forestry dominates the eastern boundary along Coast Road.

Within the dunes, revegetation programmes occur each year to help stabilise this ever changing environment.



Design Criteria: Flora (Green Assets)

- 1 **Appropriateness** - Is the size and type of the chosen species appropriate for the specific environment to ensure chances of survival? Will view shafts be retained?
- 2 **Ecosourcing** - Can new plants be easily sourced from local plant species in the surrounding environment?
- 3 **Protection** - Do new plantings require staking or other protection? (if protection is no longer required, remove redundant infrastructure)
- 4 **Maintenance** - Can regular maintenance be applied to green assets to promote best arboricultural practices and retain view shafts?
- 5 **Damage by vegetation** - Will the plant have a potentially negative affect on a protected archeological site (maintain a low frequency of understorey plants and ensure any larger specimens are growing in less damaging areas).

Existing Species: Flora (Green Assets)

Trees and Palms (natives):



karaka
(*Corynocarpus laevigatus*)
Tree 18m
Coastal forest
Hardy, leafy canopy tree.
Produces large numbers of bright yellowish orange fruit.



cabbage tree
(*Cordyline Australis*)
Tree 17m
Backdune, coastal forest, coastal cliffs
Erect tree. Requires some protection when young.
Moderate tolerance to salt and wind.



nikau
(*Rhopalostylis sapida*)
Palm 10m
Coastal forest
Slow growing. Red berries provide food for native Kereru (pigeon).



mahoe
(*Melicytus ramiflorus*)
Tree 10m
Coastal cliffs
Fast growing tree. Good for damp, shady sites. Very hardy.



pohutukawa
(*Metrosideros excelsa*)
Large tree 25m
Coastal Cliffs, coastal forest, backdune
Tolerates tough conditions but requires protection from browsing when young.
Crimson flowers at Christmas attract birds. May establish naturally in difficult cliff areas through wind blown seed.



ngaio
(*Myoporum laetum*)
Tree 8m
Coastal cliffs, backdune
Very wind hardy, grows well in sandy soil. Fleshy gland dotted leaves. Good shelter tree. Frost tender.



karo
(*Pittosporum crassifolium*)
Tree 10m
Coastal cliffs, backdunes, coastal forest
Vigorous shrub or tree that tolerates strong winds, salt and poor soil. Grey-green foliage and dark red flowers that are scented at night. Flowers attract birds.

Trees (non-natives):



macrocarpa
(*Cupressus macrocarpa*)

Medium tree 10-25m

Coastal areas

Often becomes irregular and flat topped as a result of strong winds.



monterey pine
(*Pinus radiata*)

Medium to Large tree 15-30m

Coastal areas

Often planted as a shelterbelt from strong winds. Upward pointing branches and a round top.



Norfolk pine
(*Araucaria heterophylla*)

Large tree 50-65m

Coastal areas

Straight vertical trunks and symmetrical branches.

Small Trees and Shrubs (natives):



large seeded coprosma
(*Coprosma macrocarpa*)

Shrub or small tree 5m

Coastal cliffs

Hardy, colonising shrub with abundant orange berries in late summer - autumn. Moderate salt tolerance. Attracts birds



hangehange
(*Geniostoma rupestre*)

Shrub or small tree 4m

Coastal cliffs, coastal forest

Lowland shrub with light green foliage. Needs protection from wind when young. Useful understory



hebe
(*Hebe obtusata*)

Shrub 1m

Coastal cliffs, backdune, coastal areas

Attractive prostrate shrub. Hardy, ideal for a border, bank or wall.



kawakawa
(*Macropiper excelsum*)

Small tree 7m

Coastal cliffs, coastal forest

Large heart shaped leaves usually holed by chewing native moth. Orange fruit in summer attract birds. Self-seeds easily. May need some shelter to establish.



houpara
(*Pseudopanax lessonii*)

Small tree 7m

Coastal cliffs, backdune, coastal forest

Good colonising tree in damaged coastal areas. Glossy, leathery leaves. Responds well to pruning.

Ferns (natives):

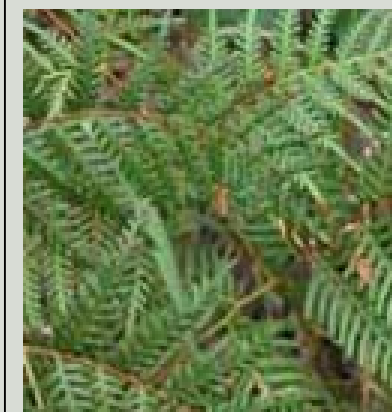


shining spleenwort
(*Asplenium oblongifolium*)

Fern 1m

Coastal forests

Tolerates a wide range of conditions, but best suited to dry, shady areas under trees and does not like excessive moisture.



bracken
(*Pteridium esculentum*)

Fern 0.5-2m

Coastal forests, coastal cliffs

Rhizomatous perennial herb. Prefers moist, sandy soil.

Herbs and Vines (natives):



small-leaved pohuehue
(*Muehlenbeckia complexa*)
Vine 1m
Coastal cliffs, backdune, coastal forest
Hardy, ideal for banks and other difficult sites. Vigorous, shrubby ground cover. Dense tangled mass along rocky coast and dunes.



flax
(*Phormium tenax*)
Herb 2-3m
Coastal cliffs, backdunes, wetlands
Very hardy, tolerant of salt exposure. Grows in a range of conditions. Excellent shelter, erect leaves. Upright in habit with tall red flower heads. Attracts birds.

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Creepers (natives):



pingao/golden sand sedge
(*Desmoschoenus spiralis*)
Sand creeper 0.5 - 1m
Foredune
Grows on naturally moving sand dunes. Golden leaved. Also used for weaving. Threatened plant.



spinifex
(*Spinifex sericeus*)
Sand creeper 0.5m
Foredune, backdune
Silvery sand binding grass. It is important to bury at least 1/3 of leaves below the sand surface of the dune.



giant umbrella sedge
(*Cyperus ustulatus*)
Sedge 0.8m
Saltmarsh, wetlands, estuaries, back-dune hollows.
Good in damp areas and freshwater seepages. Forms large dense clumps.



Carex spp.
(*Carex testacea*)
Sedge 0.3m
Backdune
Orange grass species. Hardy.



toetoe
(*Cortaderia splendens*)
Large grass 3m
Coastal cliffs, backdunes
Tolerates drought and salt wind. Can grow on dry disturbed sites. Tall dense creamy gold flowering plumes.

Choosing Species for Specific Locations:

Dune planting

pingao (foredune)	karo (backdune)
spinifex (foredune)	ngaio (backdune)
carex (backdune)	pohutukawa (backdune)
toetoe (backdune)	flax (backdune)
giant umbrella sedge (backdune)	

Coastal cliffs

flax	karo
kawakawa	mahoe
pohuehue	pohutukawa
cabbage tree	ngaio
houpara	hangehange
large seeded coprosma	bracken
toetoe	

Wetland planting

carex sp.	cabbage tree
flax	toetoe
giant umbrella sedge	
Other species not listed on pages 64-66:	
oioi (<i>Apodasmia similis</i>)	
marsh clubrush (<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>)	
taupata (<i>Coprosma repens</i>)	

Wind barrier

flax (underplanting)	ngaio
karaka	houpara
karo	pohutukawa

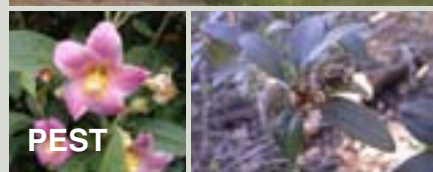
Amenity planting

houpara	cabbage tree
pohutukawa	karaka
hebe	ngaio
nikau	flax
small leaved pohuehue	

Specimen planting

pohutukawa	cabbage tree
nikau	karaka

Pest Plants and Non-natives:



PEST

Norfolk Island hibiscus
(*Lagunaria patersonii*)
Tree 10-15m
Coastal areas
Fast growing and once established wind, salt and drought tolerant. Out competes coastal species. Recommended control approach is to hand pull seedlings.



tree lupin
(*Lupinus arboreus*)
Perennial shrub 3m
Sand dunes, riverbeds, roadsides
Nitrogen-fixing changes soil fertility of natural areas. Out-competes natives. Removal: dig out small infestations removing deep taproots.



buffalo Grass
(*Stenotaphrum secundatum*)
Spreading Grass <0.5m
Coastal areas
Spreads into coastal environments especially on sand country. Smothers most native plants. Removal: dig up and dispose. Weedmat discrete spots for 2-3 months. Spray.



inkweed
(*Phytolacca octandra*)
Perennial shrub <2m
Disturbed ground, waste areas, riverbeds
Forms dense stands in open areas. Removal: pull out small plants. Slash stems close to ground and stump paint. Spray.



PEST

smilax
(*Asparagus asparagoides*)
Creeping herb <3m
Disturbed forest, margins, coastal areas, roadsides
Out-competes other vegetation by forming pure colonies. Forms canopy over plants 2-3m high, even in shade. Serious threat to native plant communities. Particular threat to pohutukawa and kowhai. Removal: pull out small plants. Weed wipe spring to early summer. Spray lightly.



kikuyu
(*Pennisetum clandestinum*)
Spreading Grass <0.5m
Pasture, roadsides, coastal
Spreads into coastal environments especially on sand country. Smothers most native plants and seedlings. Removal: weed mat discrete spots for 2-3 months. Spray new growth (spring and autumn), and spray regrowth.



PEST

ice Plant
(*Disphyma australe*)
Ground cover 0.1m
Coastal cliffs
Fleshy-leaved ground cover with white-mauve flowers in summer. Can grow on coastal rocks. Removal: pull up plants by hand. Leave upside down to die or heaped (may need to be sprayed in case of regrowth).



paspalum, mercer grass
(*Paspalum distichum*)
Creeping grass <0.5m
Damp margins and wetlands
Forms dense mats, smothers most marginal species. Blocks waterways, causes flooding. Rotting vegetation affects water quality. Removal : weed mat (small spots only) leave for 2-3 months.



PEST

pampass grass (common and purple)
(*Cortaderia selloana*, *C. jubata*)
Clump forming grass <4m
Coastal areas, sand dunes,
Competes with and smothers other vegetation. Creates fire risk, harbours pests eg rabbits, skunks, possums, rats. Spray, hand remove small plants. Remove large plants with digger. Spray.





Design Guidelines: Other things to consider

SECTION

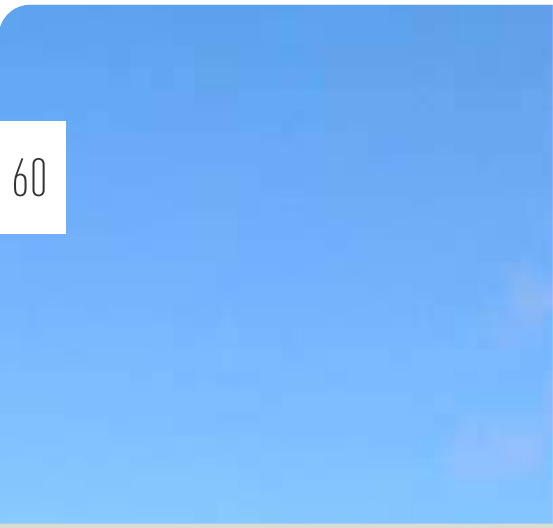
05





Textures of Muriwai

Many of the textures at Muriwai have been formed by Muriwai's harsh coastal environment. Materials used to construct barriers, fences, seats, tables, signs, roads, footpaths and edges should reflect these textures.



Colours of Muriwai

The landscape at Muriwai provides a variety of colours. When implementing new infrastructure, this colour chart of earthy blues, browns and greens can be used as a guide to reduce the impact of the development. Bright and reflective colours should be avoided.





Before



After

Removal of unnecessary vehicle barrier



Before



After

Removal of unnecessary management fence



Before



After

Removal of unnecessary management barrier

Removal of Unnecessary Structures

Park Infrastructure is developed over time to provide facilities for use by, and safety of, park visitors and staff. As time passes, plants grow, erosion and vandalism can occur, possibly rendering park infrastructure no longer useful or required. In these cases, unnecessary structures (including signs) should be removed to reduce maintenance costs, remove any potential conflicting or confusing messages for park users and reduce unnecessary visual clutter and impact.

Does the structure fulfil the original purpose? ie protect plantings from pedestrian traffic.



Is the original purpose of the structure still relevant? ie plantings now grown to provide physical barrier/delineation for pedestrian movement



Is this structure regularly maintained or require regular maintenance? If not, is it required? If so, is there any alternative design or product to reduce costs?



Is there now an alternative to fulfil the original purpose?



Old Muriwai surf life saving tower after dune erosion



Main car park and arrival area damage



Before storm surge



During storm surge



Dynamic Coastline


The Muriwai dunes recede approximately 1-1.5 metres per year, 10-15 metres per decade; however this rate varies substantially. Between June and September 2008 some areas of dune receded up to 10 metres.


New structures should be sympathetically designed, built and placed to cope with the erosive nature of Muriwai's coastline and dune system.



 Panoramic views

1. Significant views

 Pedestrian movement and views

 Vehicle movement and views

1



Viewpoint 1: Maintain low lying vegetation to ensure views out to sea. Retain high trunked trees that filter the horizon - but don't increase

2



Viewpoint 2: Maintain key views down into the valley by restricting high vegetation within approximately 200 metres of the viewpoint.

3



Viewpoint 3: Maintain natural character of the coastal dune system - scattered low shrubs and open spaces.

4



Viewpoint 4: Retain key vistas from intrusive structures competing with the view out to the gannet colony, Motutara Island, Muriwai Beach and Māori Bay. Low level planting could enhance the view in certain areas.

Significant Viewpoints and Viewshafts

Muriwai Regional Park offers expansive panoramic views at several locations across the park. It is important that these viewpoints are maintained against obstructive development. In addition to these significant viewpoints they should also be maintained at a human scale. This will ensure that residents and visitors can continue to experience the relatively undeveloped and rugged open wildness of this west coast park.

Areas of Cultural Heritage

The numerous archaeological sites recorded at Muriwai are evidence of a long history of human occupation there. Archaeological sites representing the full range of pre-European Māori settlement can be found, along with sites of early European interest.

While some pedestrian archaeological survey and assessment has been undertaken at Muriwai this survey has not been systematic or comprehensive. Given the long history of human occupation at Muriwai it is likely that as yet unrecorded archaeological sites are present.

All archaeological sites are protected under the provisions of the Historic Places Act 1993 making it illegal to destroy, damage or modify them without the written permission of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

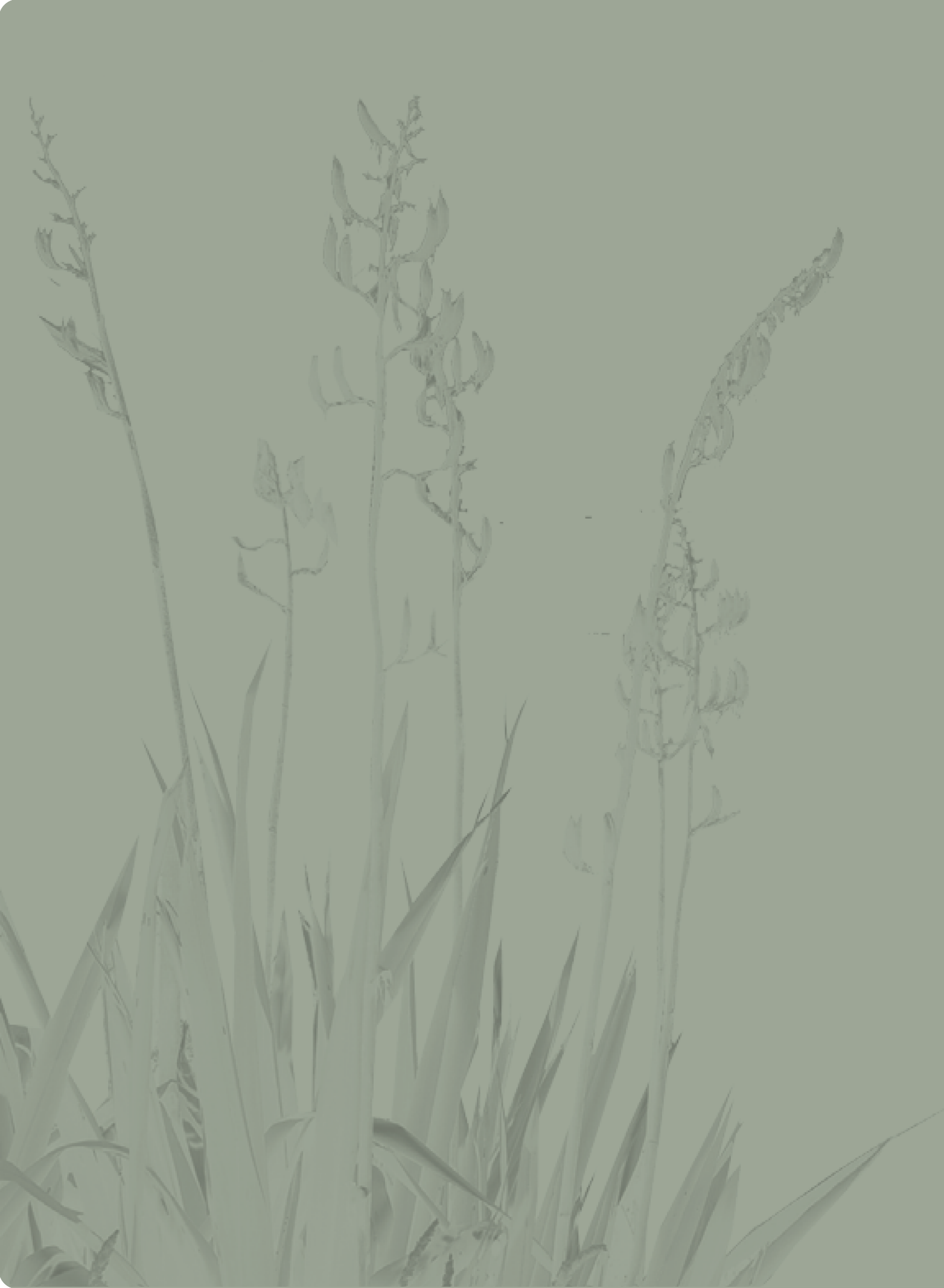
Archaeological survey does not necessarily detect wahi tapu or sites of significance to tangata whenua, this information can only be supplied by tangata whenua. Consultation should be undertaken with cultural heritage staff and tangata whenua where appropriate in the design phase of projects at Muriwai.

KEY

- archaeological site
 - pa
 - midden
 - terrace
 - grave (historic)
- ▲ historic botanical site
 - tree indigenous
 - tree exotic







Appendix: Muriwai Zones: Future Development Considerations

Within the context of the broader park there are zones that exhibit distinctive qualities and functions. Each zone requires its own analysis to ensure site specific design and development. (For further information on management policies refer to the ARC Regional Parks Management Plan).

SECTION

A



Main Park Arrival Area

This area acts as the “hub”, the major arrival point for most visitors to Muriwai Regional Park. This central arrival zone is an orientation point for the park, being the main entry point providing access to the main picnic area, campground and car parks behind the beach. This is also an access for the local community to the beach via Motutara Road (managed by RDC).

The hub is surrounded by maturing trees and contains the Muriwai Beach shop (café) and associated car parking (the dominant man-made features of this area). The hub leads onto ARC’s park depot, an information shelter and resident ranger house. Further down Motutara Road is a car park, information noticeboard and a toilet block

The “hub” is the intersection of three roads, Motutara Road (to Flat Rock), Waitea Road (to Maukatia, Māori Bay) and the road to the north car park, surf club and campground. The area acts as a gateway to the various destinations. However, this is not well articulated and can be confusing to new visitors.

The café is visually dominant and effectively “screens off” the sense of the park land beyond. The information shelter, further down Motutara

Road, adds to this visual confusion. The fact that the beach is not immediately obvious is part of the charm of the locality and adds to the sense of “discovery”.

Main issues with the hub are the mixed directional information that have been installed over the years. This signage needs to provide clear messages for the park visitor. Also, there are issues with stormwater and continual movement of the dunes through erosion at the Motutara Road south area down to Flat Rock.

RDC have jurisdiction over Motutara Road (including the ramp down on to Flat Rock) and the stormwater infrastructure. The southern carpark has been pulled back 50 metres from the seaward edge and should now have an extended life of up to 20-30 years based on average erosion rates.

Landscape characteristics

The main hub: The café is located in front of a large dune that extends from the Motutara South car park adjacent to Motutara Road towards Coast Road. The two storey café building comfortably sits within the backdrop of this dune environment.

ARC park depot area: The park depot is located on a relatively discrete but accessible site, tucked under

a major tree covered escarpment and enclosed by Waitea Road which rises towards Māori Bay.

Motutara south area (including playground):

This area is contained by the high landform of Otakamiro Point and the mature vegetation on the adjoining park land. It is dominated by the road, car parking and ablutions block, while offering the visitor the first exposure to the expansive views of the ocean. The main areas of open space surround a picnic area adjacent to the main car park, and around the playground (owned by RDC).

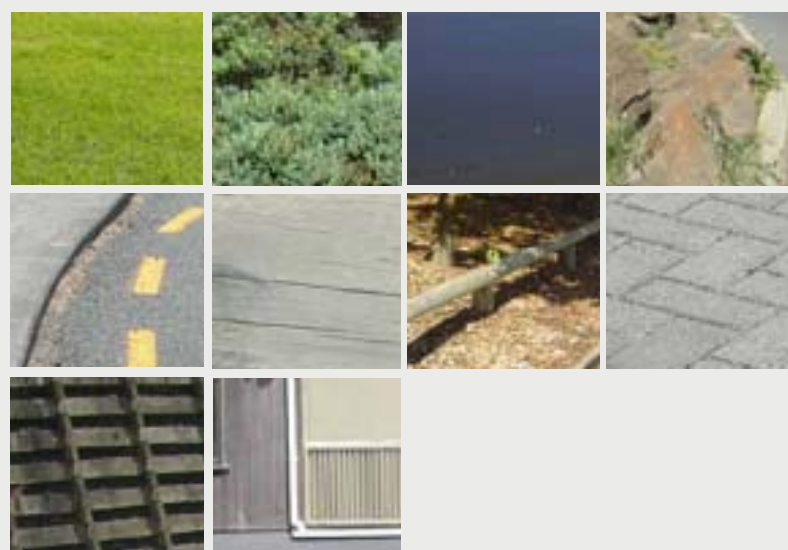
Flat Rock: This is the major route for people accessing the coast on foot and by vehicle (when accessible), to go fishing, visit the beach, launch boats or walk to Otakamiro Point. The road to the beach and the erosion protection structures are the dominant man made features of this area.

This locality is one of the main visual backdrops to the beach and is a typical example of the rugged headlands that occur along the west coast. This is a dynamic coastal environment that is ever changing and where man made structures are prone to the forces of nature.

Colours and textures

The flat open space within the area of the Hub

is minimal, therefore built structures and hard landscaping can easily over-dominate the natural characteristics of vegetation and the sandy dune landscape (see textures and colours above)



grass green, pohutukawa, black sand, large rocks, roads, wooden planters, wooden car stops and various textures of hard surfaces such as pavers and plastered walls.

Future considerations

Key considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Size and scale of development needs to retain the enclosed essence of the hub by ensuring one structure does not dominate.
- Group development in such a way to minimise impact on limited open space.
- New infrastructure must be placed sympathetically against the natural dune

feature, vegetation back drop or cliff face.

- Remove and avoid locating structures within key view shafts.
- Minimise the amount of hard surfaces through utilising natural materials for car parking areas and footpaths.
- Remove all unnecessary structures
- Avoid bright coloured road markings in favour of delineation by using natural materials to control traffic movement.
- Use vegetation or natural material to articulate vehicle movement, whilst ensuring a sense of safety and security (CPTED Principles page 75).
- Wherever possible, locate vehicle barriers within vegetation rather than corral areas of vegetation.
- Retain and enhance the main avenues of structural trees.
- Avoid placing structures on skylines that might be visible from other locations within the park.
- Retain the children's playground. If redeveloping any part of the structure, consider creating a play landscape (a playground that reflects the Muriwai landscape) rather than a kitset playground.



Main Picnic Area and North Car Park

The northern car park and associated picnicking area provides access to the beach, in particular, the surf club patrolled portion of the beach. The locality is dominated by car parking lined up behind the fore dunes and the lifesaving patrol tower located at its central point.

There are limited open space and picnic areas at Muriwai. This picnic area is close to beach access points, is sheltered from the prevailing winds and offers shade. It has a special feel, being relatively open under the canopy of large mature macrocarpa and pohutukawa trees, with minimal infrastructure.

This area contains mobile sand dunes that require active management but not taming. That is, the dunes need to be stabilised to their natural profile using suitable vegetation, but it must be accepted that sand will move and sometimes the visitor infrastructure may need to be withdrawn or relocated. All attempts should be made to manage access points through the dunes at key locations, with control mechanisms kept appropriate, discrete and to a human scale.

The main built infrastructure within this area (apart from the access road) is the Surf Life Saving Club, ablutions block and park noticeboard. The

scale and segregation of the Surf Life Saving Club compromises the public feel and use of this area.

Landscape characteristics

This setting is the quintessence of Muriwai with visitor parking and picnicking areas nestled behind the dunes in a rugged and dynamic sand environment. This is the main area of flat open space at Muriwai, which provides beach access to the west. To the east, are inland dunes that depict the boundary between park land and houses on Motutara Road.

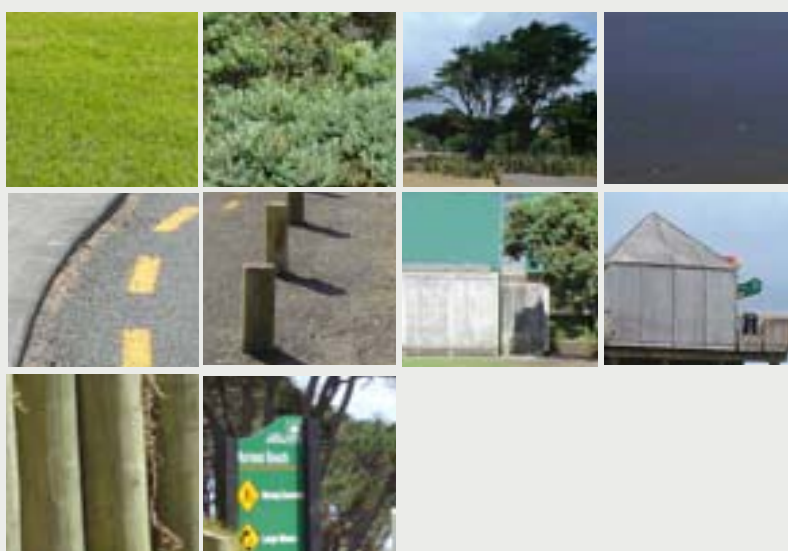
The northern car parks are located behind the main beach dune system and parking spaces are defined by wooden bollards. The dune system itself is fenced off to protect spinifex which is trying to establish.

The main open picnic space is undulating grass land dominated by mature macrocarpa and pohutukawa trees, which provide shade and shelter for park visitors. There is minimal built infrastructure within this area, which enhances the spatial qualities. The toilet block is surrounded by mature trees and the backdrop to the surf club building is a significant dune.

This area is open to the predominant winds, which is evident by plant growth and emphasises the dynamics of this west coast beach. The car park forms tend to change due to wind blows and the changing dynamics of a living dune system.

Colours and textures

The colours and textures within this area are found through the vegetation, the sandy dune landscape and main infrastructure as listed below.



grass green, pohutukawa, macrocarpas, black sand, entrance road, wooden bollards, various textures of hard surfaces such toilet block walls, notice board and surf club tower.

Future considerations

Key considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Remove all unnecessary structures
- Retain and enhance the open shaded nature of the area for informal picnicking.
- Beach pedestrian access control points need to be flexibly managed using temporary control fences. These should be kept low profile and visually minimal eg post and wire fences.
- Car parks need to be periodically cleared of sand, or if necessary, relocated to the east ie tucked into back dunes without threatening the integrity of those dunes.
- Use vegetation or natural material to articulate vehicle movement where appropriate to ensure a sense of safety and security for parked cars (see CPTED principles).
- Wherever possible, locate vehicle barriers within vegetation rather than corral areas of vegetation.
- New infrastructure must be placed sympathetically to the location, against the natural dune feature or vegetation backdrop, whilst ensuring the open shaded nature of the area is not compromised.

CPTED Principles

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Key principles:

- Surveillance: ie who is present, when and whether they are able to see what is happening around them.
- Access management: ie the design of public spaces in such a way as to attract people to some areas and discourage or restrict them from using other areas.
- Territorial reinforcement: ie clear boundaries encourage community "ownership of spaces".
- Quality environments: ie good quality, well maintained environments attract people and support informal surveillance processes.



Muriwai Campground

The campground is a unique and special feature of the regional park and part of Muriwai's identity. The Muriwai campground is a licensed facility, run as a private operation.

The ARC provides the basic infrastructure for the campground (toilets, buildings etc), which included an upgrade of the wastewater system in 2006.

The campground consists of an ablutions and shower block, kitchen and dining facilities, washing facilities, office, campground manager's residence, sites for tent camping, serviced sites, campervan parking and more permanent caravan sites. The campground is well utilised through the busy summer period.

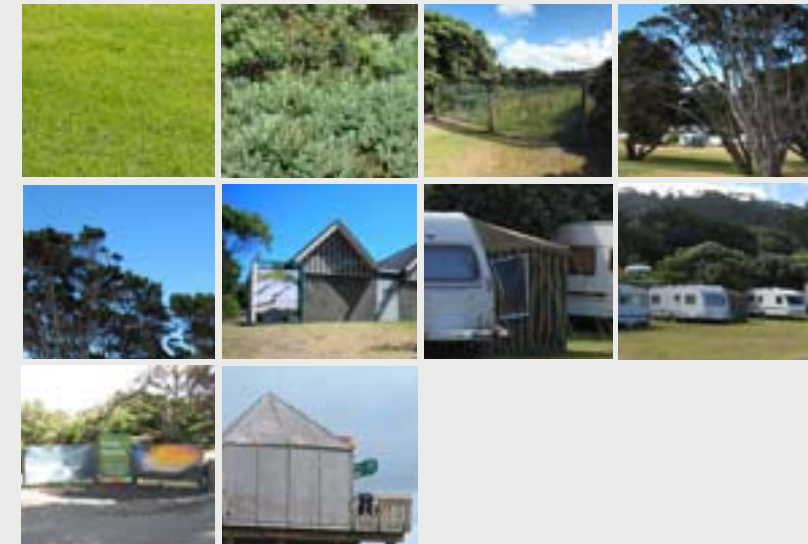
Landscape characteristics

The Muriwai campground is a large, treed environment enclosed by surrounding dunes. This is an open and expansive setting, not overly dominated by the campground infrastructure of ablution blocks, main buildings and serviced camping sites.

Colours and textures

The colours and textures of the campground are forever changing through the constant change of

campers. They are found through the vegetation, campground infrastructure and the dynamics of camping as highlighted as follows



grass green, vegetation (waste water disposal field), specimen trees, tents, caravans, various textures of hard surfaces such as toilet block walks, notice board and surf club tower.

Future considerations

Key considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Remove all unnecessary structures.
- Retain the open, casual setting.



Maukatia (Māori Bay) and Otakamiro Point

Maukatia (Māori Bay) and Otakamiro Point are important locations at Muriwai, as they are prominent landscape features of the western coastline.

This area includes important archaeological sites, unique pillow lava formations, contains the gannet colony and many vantage points for viewing the coastline, Muriwai, the Tasman Sea and gannets.

Maukatia and Otakamiro Point are well known launching sites for hang gliders, paraponters and model gliders and a major tourist destination and provide access to Maukatia (Māori Bay) for surfing.

The main infrastructure at Maukatia includes a car park and a toilet block. There are a number of gravel paths leading to viewing points and the two platforms overlooking the gannet colony on Otakamiro Point.

The wooden toilet block at Maukatia has been designed to fit into the surrounding environment, located with cliffs as its backdrop and an earth roof. However, there are concerns from time to time with rock fall from the adjacent cliff, which is operationally managed through clearance of scree

as appropriate.

This area is overlooked by the Muriwai community, as houses rise above Waitea Road towards the higher Waimauku plateau.

Landscape characteristics

The arrival area and car park at Maukatia is tucked beneath high rocky cliffs created by an abandoned quarry. This area contains geologically unique pillow lava formations. From the car park down towards Maukatia, are noted areas of archaeological significance.

This is a rugged and harsh environment that offers views over the Tasman Sea and to Otakamiro Point. A service track provides access down to a heavily used surf beach. This hill face is predominantly long grass, interspersed with clumps of flaxes.

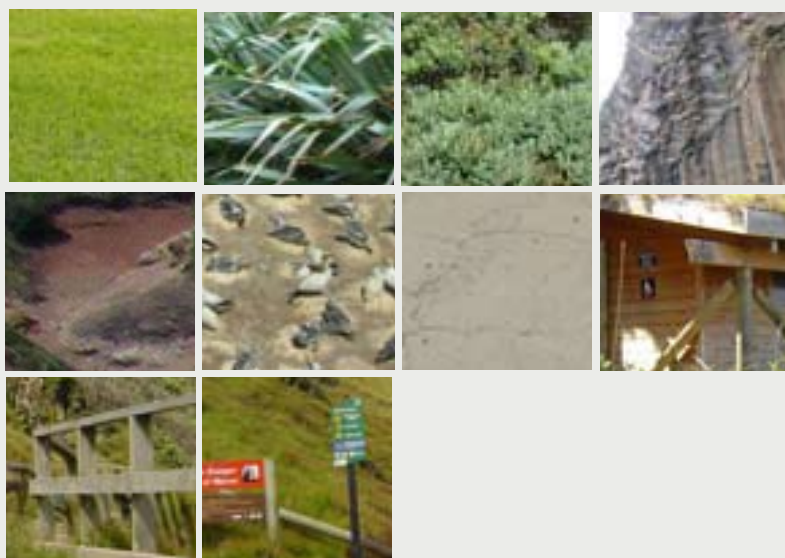
Otakamiro Point is heavily planted, predominantly in flax, which helps contain movement to the main pedestrian tracks and maintains a natural appearance. There is a small area of bush which is walked through to gain access to a viewing platform for the main gannet colony.

The ARC has produced a conservation plan for

Otakamiro Point that includes reference to existing flora species.

Colours and textures

The colours and textures within this area are found through the vegetation, campground infrastructure and the dynamics of camping as highlighted below:



grass green, flaxes, pohutukawa, rocky cliffs, red clay earth, gannets, hoggins footpath, various textures of hard surfaces such as paving, toilet block, retaining walls, interpretative signage plinths.

Future considerations

Considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Remove all unnecessary structures.
- Utilise natural materials (ie rocks), preferably

with horizontal lines, to direct and control parking.

- Reconsider the appropriateness of current signage (ie how informative)
- Retain the natural setting on Otakamiro Point by minimising man made elements within the environment.
- Avoid structures on the skyline. Consider views from other areas of the park.

- Utilise safety barriers only where the vegetation will not suffice.
- Work in partnership with Tangata Whenua to revegetate the Maukatia (Māori Bay) banks with low growing coastal species. (refer to images below)

Artists impression before revegetation of banks



Artists impression after revegetation of banks





Village Green and the old Fourth Tee

This area contains a number of facilities that primarily serve the needs of the local community, such as the fire station, tennis courts and a playing field.

The management of these facilities has been transferred to RDC. However, the context of this area, and the importance of these facilities to the local community remains an integral part of the regional park.

The old Fourth Tee acts as an overland stormwater flow path during heavy rainfall, and contains temporal wetlands that should not be obstructed by development.

Infrastructure located within the community area includes tennis courts, a gravel car park adjacent to the golf course boundary and the fire station.

This area is also being reviewed with respect to RDC's desire to expand capacity of stormwater and wastewater disposal for Muriwai and is an area that is continually in demand to provide for the local community infrastructure requirements.

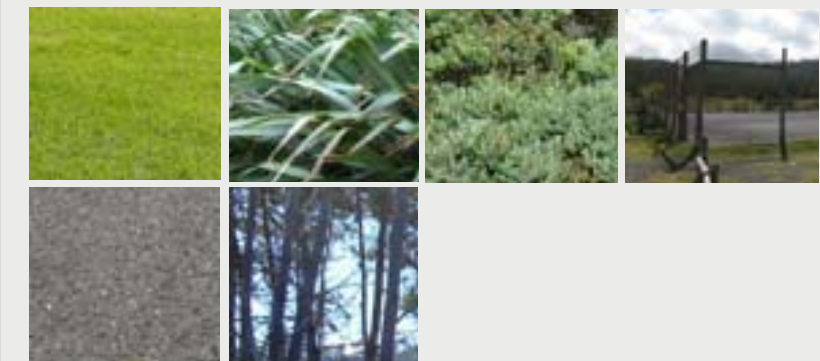
Landscape characteristics

The Village Green and old Fourth Tee is flanked by the golf course to the north, campground to the west, Coast Road to the east and the boundary of private properties along Motutara Road to the south. This area is generally self contained, and does have some views towards the Tasman Sea.

The Fourth Tee is a relatively flat open space, surrounded by planting and is largely a transition between the Village Green and the remainder of the park. The proposed surf club will be relocated to this area. The Village Green area houses the main built infrastructure for the area, containing four tennis courts and a gravel car park. From the Village Green, the landform rises to the fire station.

Colours and textures

The colours and textures of the expansive green areas of the golf course, village green and old fourth tee are highlighted as follows:



grass green, flaxes, pohutukawa, tennis court surface, wire mesh fencing, gravel, pine trees

Future development considerations

Key considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Remove all unnecessary structures.
- Progressively revegetate along the southern golf course boundary to screen and provide shelter to public open space areas between the golf course, village green and campground whilst ensuring view shafts and CPTED design principles are considered. (CPTED principles Page 75)
- Retain open space qualities of the old Fourth Tee where appropriate.
- Revegetate the old Fourth Tee with plants suitable for a temporal wetland.
- Construct linking paths while minimising structures.



Coast Road, Okiritoto Stream and Five Mile Strip

Coast Road is the main access to the Village Green, the golf club and horse park, and provides vehicle access to the beach at Okiritoto Stream, which is an important cultural site. This area is also the introduction point to the remote wilderness of the Five Mile Strip.

Coast Road terminates with the horse park, which is adjacent to the Okiritoto Stream to the north, and adjoins the commercial forestry land managed by Hancocks to the east. The horse park is dominated by large mature pine trees that provide shade as well as a link to the forestry plantings within the area. The horse park acts as a small hub at the end of Coast Road, providing a gateway to the beach, horse and pedestrian trail systems within the forest and the Five Mile Strip.

This area is coming under significant recreation pressure, which is sometimes conflicting. Weekends see an influx of visitors for horse riding, motorbike riding, 4WD access to the beach as well as those simply wanting to walk down the beach and by the stream.

Motorbike events are held on the adjacent land

managed by Hancocks, which places significant pressure on car parks and Coast Road itself and challenges the amenity of the area.

The golf club is open for public use and sits on the seaward side of Coast Road. The Golf Club is a licensed activity. Any changes to the facility are at the consent of ARC.

Landscape Characteristics

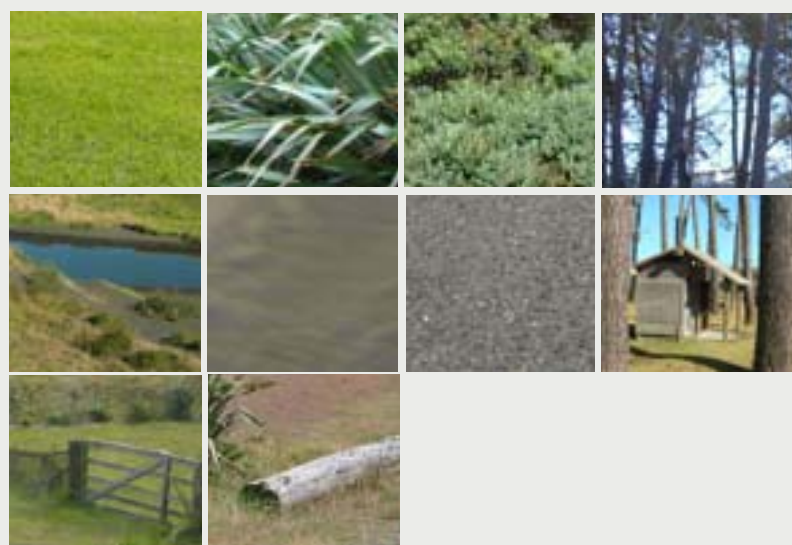
Coast Road is slightly elevated, offering views over the golf course to the Tasman Sea beyond. The road verge is long grass with occasional planted areas and varies in width.

The horse park is a predominately flat area dominated by mature pine trees. Towards the coast, the land tends to be more undulating as it approaches the main dune system down onto the beach.

The Okiritoto Stream area and Five Mile Strip are undulating, consistent with the dune systems of the area, and contain a mixture of native bush and forestry plantings.

Colours and textures

The colours and textures within this area are found through the vegetation, horse park infrastructure, Okiritoto Stream and beach access highlighted as follows:



grass green, flaxes, pohutukawa, pine trees and Okiritoto Stream vegetation, sand, gravel road, various textures of hard surfaces including the toilet, railings and fencing.

Future considerations

Considerations for future development and ongoing maintenance must include:

- Remove all unnecessary structures.
- Revegetate the roadsides while retaining key vistas at selected points across golf course.
- Retain the casual, wilderness feel of the locality by utilising natural materials to direct visitors away from sensitive areas, eg pine logs

to direct and control traffic.

- Keep infrastructure to the minimum necessary to contain vehicles and facilitate the use of the area as a recreational hub.
- Minimise the use of signs through maximising information contained within signage.
- Beach pedestrian and vehicle access control points need to be flexibly managed using temporary control fences. These should be kept low profile and visually minimal eg post and wire fences.
- Group development in such a way to minimise impact on limited open space.
- New infrastructure must be placed sympathetically within the location, against a vegetated back drop to ensure views are not impacted into and from the beach.
- Remove and avoid locating structures within key view shafts.

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