

Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks Network Plan Parangarahu Lakes Area - East Harbour Regional Park Amendment

6.4 East Harbour Regional Park

East Harbour Regional Park is located on the eastern side of Te Whanganui-a-Tara (the Wellington Harbour). The park covers just over 2,000 hectares and is made up of three separate blocks: the Northern Forest, the Parangarahu Lakes Area and Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui. It is one of two Greater Wellington parks that adjoin the coastline. Refer Map [1A].

East Harbour Regional Park is an important recreation resource for the people of Eastbourne, Wainuiomata, the Hutt Valley and the greater Wellington region. Both the bush clad hills of the Northern Forest and the rugged and exposed nature of the coast provide a sense of isolation in close proximity to busy urban centres. While parts of the park have been long protected, the park was first proposed as Pencarrow Regional Park in 1975. This proposal was much larger than the current park and in 1979 the concept was subsequently reworked to only include publicly held land. The park has since expanded as bids to acquire private land at Parangarahu Lakes and Baring Head for inclusion in the park were successful.

The park includes several sites of cultural significance, including pa and sites of harvest. Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) retain mana whenua over the lands and are represented by the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST); the iwi authority for this area.

The Northern Forest and Baring Head are managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and include land owned by the Crown, Hutt City Council (HCC) and GWRC. Parangarahu Lakes Area is managed by GWRC and PNBST under a co-management arrangement and includes land owned by GWRC, PNBST and the Crown. The wider catchments of the lakes' include land managed by HCC, New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT), DOC and private landowners.

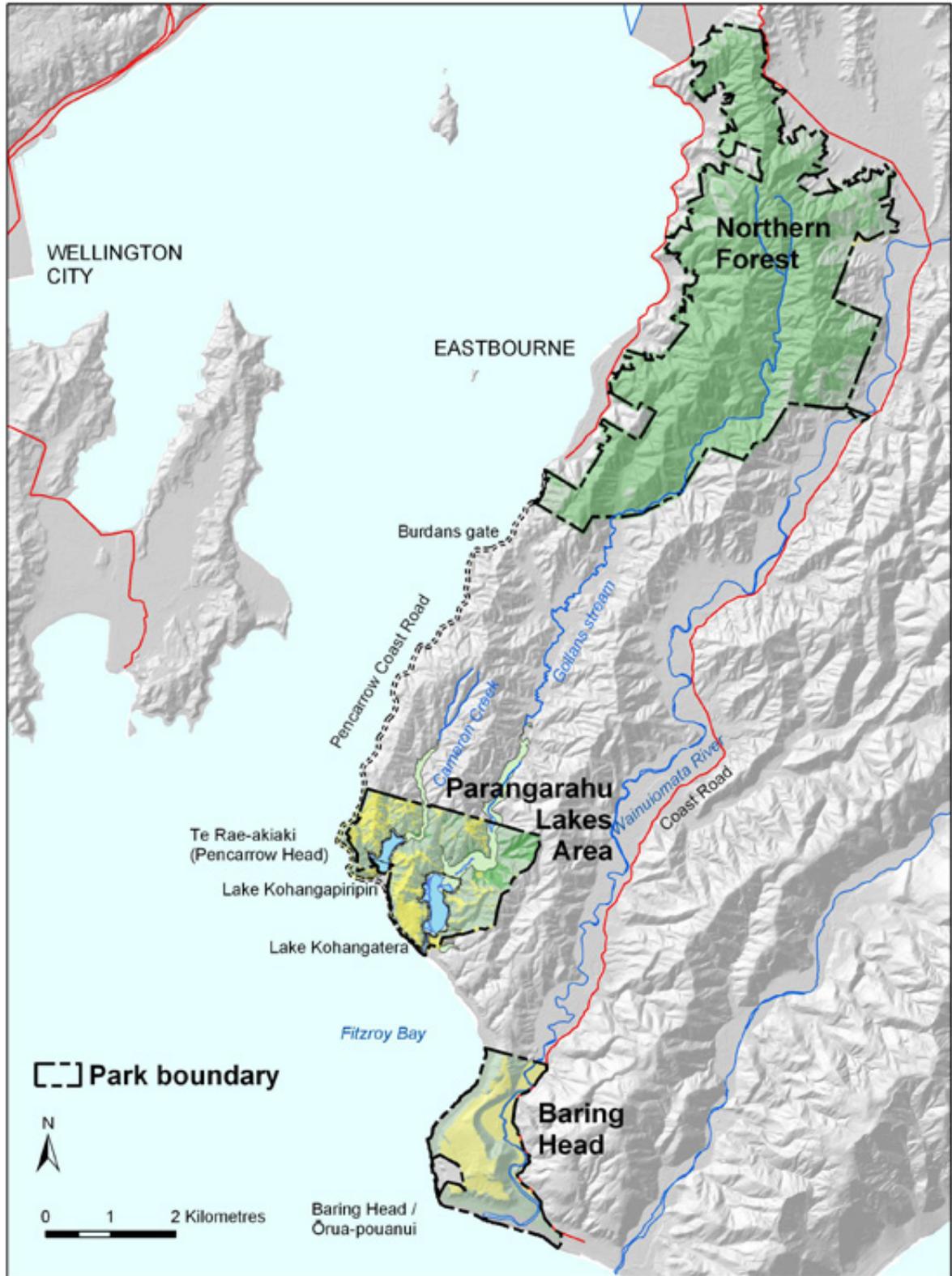
The Northern Forest block includes the steep hill country between Eastbourne and Wainuiomata. Clothed in beech/rata forest, these hills provide the forested backdrop to the eastern aspect of Wellington Harbour. The valley floors contain lush lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest. The area can be accessed from various points in Eastbourne or Wainuiomata and offers excellent passive recreation opportunities. The local community is actively involved in projects within the park, including the mainland island restoration project.

The Parangarahu Lakes Area lies east of the main harbour entrance and contains the nationally significant Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera. These lakes and their associated wetlands are home to a wealth of native plants and wildlife. There are also a number of important cultural and historic sites within the block. The area provides opportunity for walking and cycling and is popular with bird watchers. Public access to the area is by bike or foot from Burden's gate, along Pencarrow Coast Road which is managed by HCC.

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui is a prominent headland located at the south-eastern edge of the Wellington Harbour. The area is recognised for its uplifted marine terraces, punctuated by the Baring Head lighthouse. The 295 hectares of reserve is home to rare coastal plants, a number of lizard species, various coastal birds and native fish that frequent the lower reaches of the Wainuiomata River. The area is popular for fishing, rock-climbing, and hang gliding.

Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui has been used by a number of iwi over time as a place for habitation, fishing and cultivation. Later strategic land uses included military observation posts, maritime navigation equipment and a meteorological station. It currently serves an internationally significant role in atmospheric sampling for greenhouse gas emissions.

Each of the three blocks of East Harbour Regional Park has a sub-chapter.



MAP [1A] EAST HARBOUR REGIONAL PARK.

Taranaki Whānui post Treaty Settlement; a new era of partnership

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui), are people descended from one or more of the recognised tūpuna of Te Ati Awa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Mutunga. Their ancestors migrated to Wellington in the early 1800's and signed the Port Nicholson Block Deed of Purchase in 1839. The Port Nicholson Block runs from the Rimutaka Summit to the south coast at Pipinui Point (Boomrock) around the coastline to Turakirae in the east and up the Rimutaka ridgeline to the summit.

Treaty of Waitangi redress recognises the traditional, historical, cultural and spiritual association of Taranaki Whānui with places and sites managed by the Crown. The deed of recognition signed in December 2008 allows Taranaki Whānui and the Crown to protect and enhance the conservation values associated with these sites, and includes:

1. The lakebeds of Lake Kohangatera and Lake Kohangapiripiri (the Parangarahu Lakes, formerly referred to as the Pencarrow Lakes) and two former esplanade reserves surrounding both lakes
2. Dendroglyph sites near the Parangarahu Lakes (vested as Māori Reservations).

As part of cultural redress to settle the historical Treaty claims of Taranaki Whānui, in 2009 ownership of the lakebeds, the former esplanade reserve and the dendroglyph sites was vested in the Trustees of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST). The Crown retains ownership of the space occupied by water and air above Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera and a conservation covenant is also included over the lakebeds and the esplanade land.

In recognising the need to manage this area holistically, GWRC and PNBST agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the matters on which GWRC and PNBST will work together on, including the preparation of a co-management plan for the area. This is known as the Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan (2014). The Parangarahu Lakes Area chapter of this plan includes the relevant policies of the Co-Management Plan as they apply to the land that GWRC has delegated management responsibility under the Reserves Act 1977.

6.4 (B) East Harbour Regional Park – Parangarahu Lakes Reserve

6.4.8 Legal status

Territorial Authority: Hutt City Council

REGIONAL PARK/FOREST	TITLE HELD BY	LEGISLATIVE STATUS
East Harbour Regional Park – Parangarahu Lakes Reserve	Wellington Regional Council	Recreation Reserve 14.32 hectares
	Crown – Department of Conservation (land vested in Wellington Regional Council)	Recreation Reserve 362.48 hectares
Possible reserves to be vested in the future.	Crown Stratum - DOC – no title issued. The space occupied by water and air above the lakebeds. Lake Kohangatera Outlet. Crown – Department of Conservation (to be vested in Wellington Regional Council)	Scientific Reserve. Government Purpose Wildlife Management Reserve. Proposed to be Scientific Reserve vested in GWRC.

The Parangarahu Lakes Area is predominantly recreation reserve, with smaller parcels of land held by the Crown and PNBST (the lake beds, area around the lakes and dendroglyph sites). Hutt City Council also owns land at the entrance to the park and Heritage New Zealand, the Pencarrow Lighthouse footprint.

Refer to Appendix 2 [of the Parks Network Plan] and the Co-Management Plan for a legal description of the land parcels.

6.4.9 Background

The Parangarahu Lakes Area, located east of the entrance to Te Whanganui-a-Tara is visible from Wellington is marked by the historic Pencarrow lighthouse. Tucked in behind the coastal escarpment are the nationally significant freshwater Lakes Kohangapiriripi and Kohangatera and their associated wetlands, home for a high number of native plants and wildlife.

Public access to the area is by foot or bike from Burden’s Gate, along the gravel Pencarrow Coast Road which is managed by Hutt City Council. The area is popular for walking, biking and bird watching. The Ornithological Society has recorded over fifty different species of birds in this area including the banded dotterel and an inland breeding colony of black shag¹.

In 1991 Greater Wellington purchased the former the Pencarrow Lakes Block in recognition of the importance of the lakes and wetlands. This purchase expanded East Harbour Regional Park, allowing public access to this area and bringing into public protection the outstanding cultural, natural and landscape values. Recreation reserve status was sought for the 360 Ha Pencarrow Lakes Block.

¹ As at 2014

Parangarahu Lakes Area has been used by a number of iwi over time as a place for gathering kai and for shelter. As part of cultural redress in 2009, PNBST received ownership of the lakebeds, the former esplanade reserves and the dendroglyph sites. A co-management arrangement between GWRC and PNBST is in place for the Parangarahu Lakes Area and in 2014 the Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan was approved. The Moemoeā-vision of the Co-Management Plan is: Kohangapiripiri – Kohangatera - Kohanga Ora – nests nurturing life and wellbeing.

This section of this plan includes the relevant policies of the Co-Management Plan as they apply to the land that GWRC has delegated management responsibility under the Reserves Act 1977.

6.4.10 Key park characteristics

Land

- Significant landscape formed by the coastal escarpment which is a highly visible backdrop to the Wellington Harbour.
- Nationally significant Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera Lakes and wetlands.
- Geological features and associated habitats; coastal lakes, raised beaches and marine terraces.

People

- Long history of Māori occupation and use.
- Co-management relationship with Taranaki Whānui and collaboration with other landowners and agencies.
- Prominent historic Pencarrow Lighthouse and associated history
- Coastal tracks suitable for walking and biking.

6.4.11 Management focus

The focus for East Harbour Regional Park - Parangarahu Lakes Area is to:

1. Work with the PNBST and develop strategic partnerships between agencies, landowners and community groups to achieve the Moemoea-vision of the Co-Management Plan
2. Restore the Mouri² and maintain the ecological integrity of the Parangarahu Lakes Area
3. Protect and manage the historic and cultural heritage, sites of significance and other waahi taonga of the Parangarahu Lakes Area
4. Provide for compatible passive recreation activities
5. Protect landscape values
6. Complete vesting of the Scientific Reserves.

6.4.12 Specific policies

Biodiversity and ecosystems

- a. To have particular regard for the high priority indigenous areas when determining ecosystem protection and enhancement priorities as listed in Table 5A.
- b. To implement the Parangarahu Lakes Key Native Ecosystem Plan.
- c. To restore native fish habitat and migration paths within the catchments.

² Mouri (or Mauri): an energy or life force that tangata whenua consider exists in all things in the natural works, including people. Mouri binds and animates all things in the physical world. Without mouri, mana cannot flow into a person or object. Spelling of Mouri is Taranaki Dialect.

- d. To control pest plants/animals where these interfere with the oranga of the Parangarahu Lakes Area, including the control of aquatic weed incursions and continued investigation of options for eradication.
- e. To establish an approval process for the use or removal of natural materials including access for Mahinga Kai - cultural harvesting.

Landscape and geological features

- f. To protect the park's key landscape features and values from inappropriate use and development, specifically:
 - Coastal hills and escarpment at the eastern entrance of Wellington Harbour
 - The Parangarahu Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera and their associated wetlands.
- g. To advocate for the protection of the geological features, the raised beaches and interglacial marine terraces along the southern coast, from inappropriate use and development.
- h. No new buildings or structures will be located at the reserve, unless such structures are essential for achieving the management objectives of the Co-Management Plan and cannot reasonably be located elsewhere.

Cultural heritage

- i. To understand the significance of the cultural and natural features of the landscape and preserve their histories (oral and written).
- j. To work with PNBST to manage key sites of cultural heritage significance including the dendroglyph sites.

- k. To support the protection of significant modified landscape features of the historic Pencarrow Lighthouse from inappropriate use or development.³

Explanation: Working with PNBST is essential to ensure that sites are not affected when undertaking restorative planting, pest control or installing park infrastructure (fences, tracks etc.). Where new sites are discovered, Greater Wellington's Accidental Discovery Protocol must be followed. Where damage is from natural changes or vandalism, PNBST will be notified and agreement reached on any actions needed.

Land management

- l. To manage public access to the area in a way that takes into account the threats to the ecological integrity of the lakes and the habitats of threatened flora and fauna, including:
 - to work with HCC to restrict vehicle access to that required for management purposes, existing easements, volunteer activities, approved events and concessions. Note that this does not restrict pedestrian or cycle access.
 - to advocate to DOC to restrict access to the lakes (the water) and wetlands to that required for management purposes and approved mahinga kai.

Visitor Services

- m. To complete the Cameron Ridge to Lake Kohangatera wetland walk.
- n. To develop visitor amenities including picnic tables and a toilet at suitable locations within the park.
- o. To develop interpretation based on the main themes of Māori history, geology and ecology.

³ The Historic Pencarrow Lighthouse is owned by the Historic Places Trust as well as the small footprint of land on which it sits.

- p. To establish opportunities for the sharing of cultural knowledge and education, possibly through guided tours and wananga.

Partnership in Parks

- q. To foster kaitiakitanga and greater participation in activities at the lakes and management by Taranaki Whānui iwi and the community.
- r. To use Maori and western science perspectives to inform decision-making, monitoring and reporting.
- s. To liaise with HCC, DOC, NZHPT and private landowners in regards to decision making on the management and use of the land to provide an integrated approach to environmental management programmes and recreational activities.
- t. To support the partnership with Forest and Bird, Fish and Game, MIRO and other voluntary groups in meeting the management objectives of the Co-Management Plan, including the restoration of native species to the area.

Table 5A Significant indigenous environmental areas and features East Harbour Regional Park Parangarahu Lakes Area

AREA	DESCRIPTION	REASONS FOR SIGNIFICANCE
Pencarrow Lakes and wetlands	<p>Kohangapiripiri – freshwater lake fed by Cameron Creek. Lake is about 13 hectares, and 1-2 metres deep with 43 hectares of wetland.</p> <p>Kohangatera – slightly more brackish than Kohangapiripiri. Fed by Gollans Stream. 17 hectares with 150 hectares of wetland.</p> <p>The Lakes are separated from sea by raised shingle beaches.</p> <p>Active sand dunes</p>	<p>Ecosystem types: the Lakes have been described at the best condition coastal lakes in the country, the associated swamp wetlands as some of the best condition of their type in the country, and the shingle beaches at Kohangapiripiri as the best condition nationally⁴.</p> <p>Wetlands support highly indigenous plant communities in a relatively unmodified state. There are a number of regionally threatened species, including two aquatic plants – <i>Lepilaena bilocularis</i> and <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> and three semi-aquatics – <i>Crassula kirkii</i>, <i>Glossostigma diandrum</i> and <i>Ranunculus macropus</i>. Also regarded as locally significant are – <i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i> (sea holly), <i>Glossostigma elatinoides</i>, <i>Gratiola sexdentata</i>, <i>Limosella lineate</i> (mudwort) and <i>Scheonoplectus validus</i> (clubrush). 50 bird species have been recorded for the two lakes.</p> <p>Native fish, including long finned eels, giant kokupu and bullies.</p> <p>The shingle beaches are outside the park but are important because they preserve a unique record of historical uplifts, support a rare biotic community (including <i>Muehlenbeckia ephedrodes</i>) and are a natural water levelling mechanism for the lake and gateway for fish populations.</p> <p>The shingle beaches provide habitat for the variable oystercatcher (at risk), banded dotterel (nationally vulnerable).</p> <p>Cushion plants and rare ecosystems of native sand binding plants are present including <i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>.</p>

4 DRAFT GWRC Key Native Ecosystems Plan for Parangarahu

6.4.13 Projected future changes

Where appropriate, these are represented on the Map of Projected Future Changes (Page 11)

1. Implement the Key Native Ecosystem Plan.
2. Complete the repair of boundary fences to be stock proof.
3. Complete the Cameron Ridge to Lake Kohangatera wetland walk (walking and cycling).
4. Work with HCC to keep vehicles off the dunes-shingle beaches.
5. Work with PNBST, HCC and HNZ for appropriate recognition of key cultural sites.
6. Develop interpretation material and resources.
7. Develop recreational links to the national cycle track network.
8. Complete vesting of the Scientific Reserves.

6.4.14 Park Maps

The following pages contain:

- Map 11: East Harbour Regional Park – Parangarahu Lakes Area in 2013.
- Map 11A: East Harbour Regional Park – Parangarahu Lakes Area projected future changes.

For more information

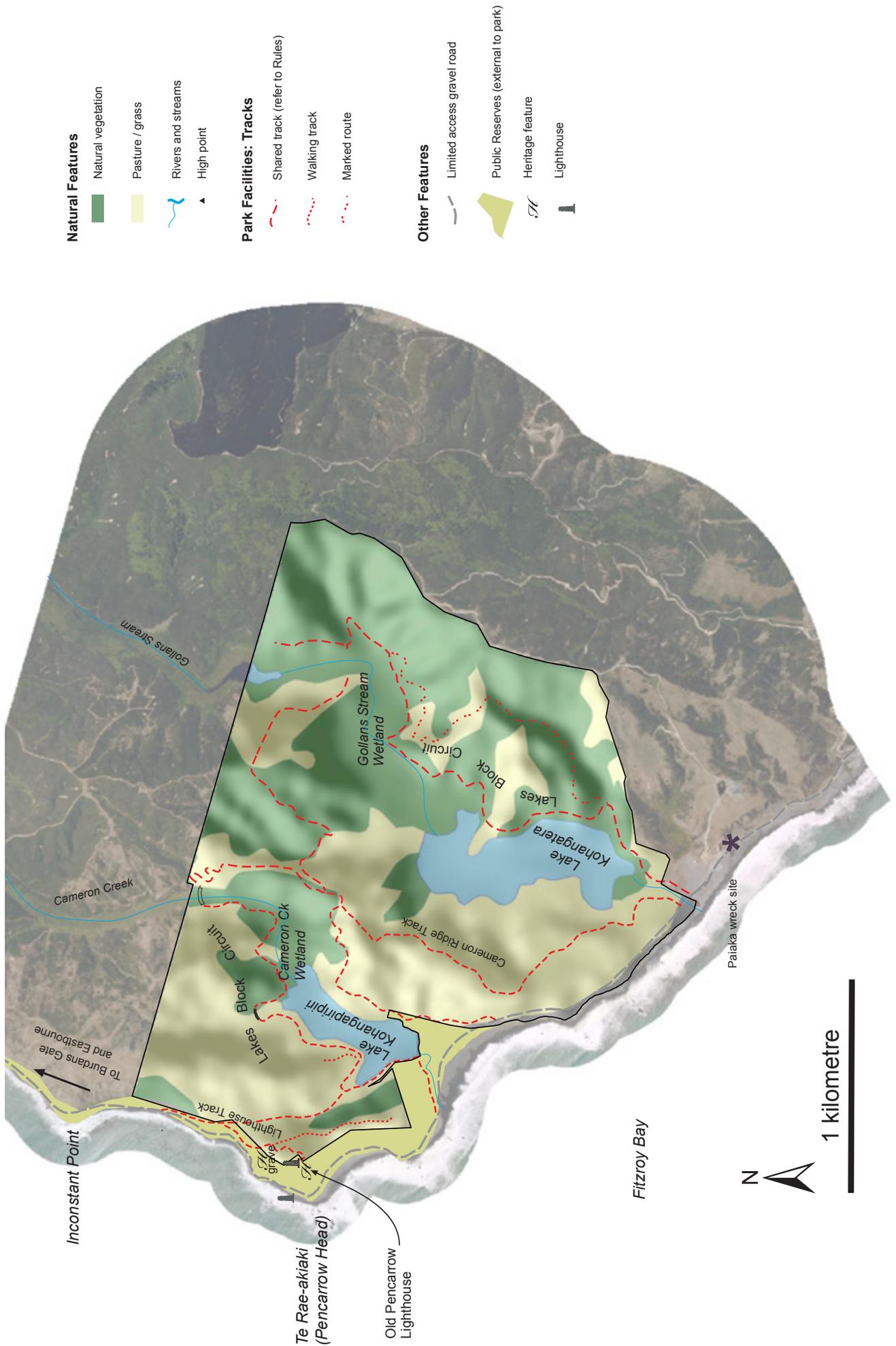
Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan (Greater Wellington and PNBST, 2014)

East Harbour Regional Park Resource Statement (Greater Wellington, 2007)

Wetlands Action Plan (Greater Wellington, 2003)

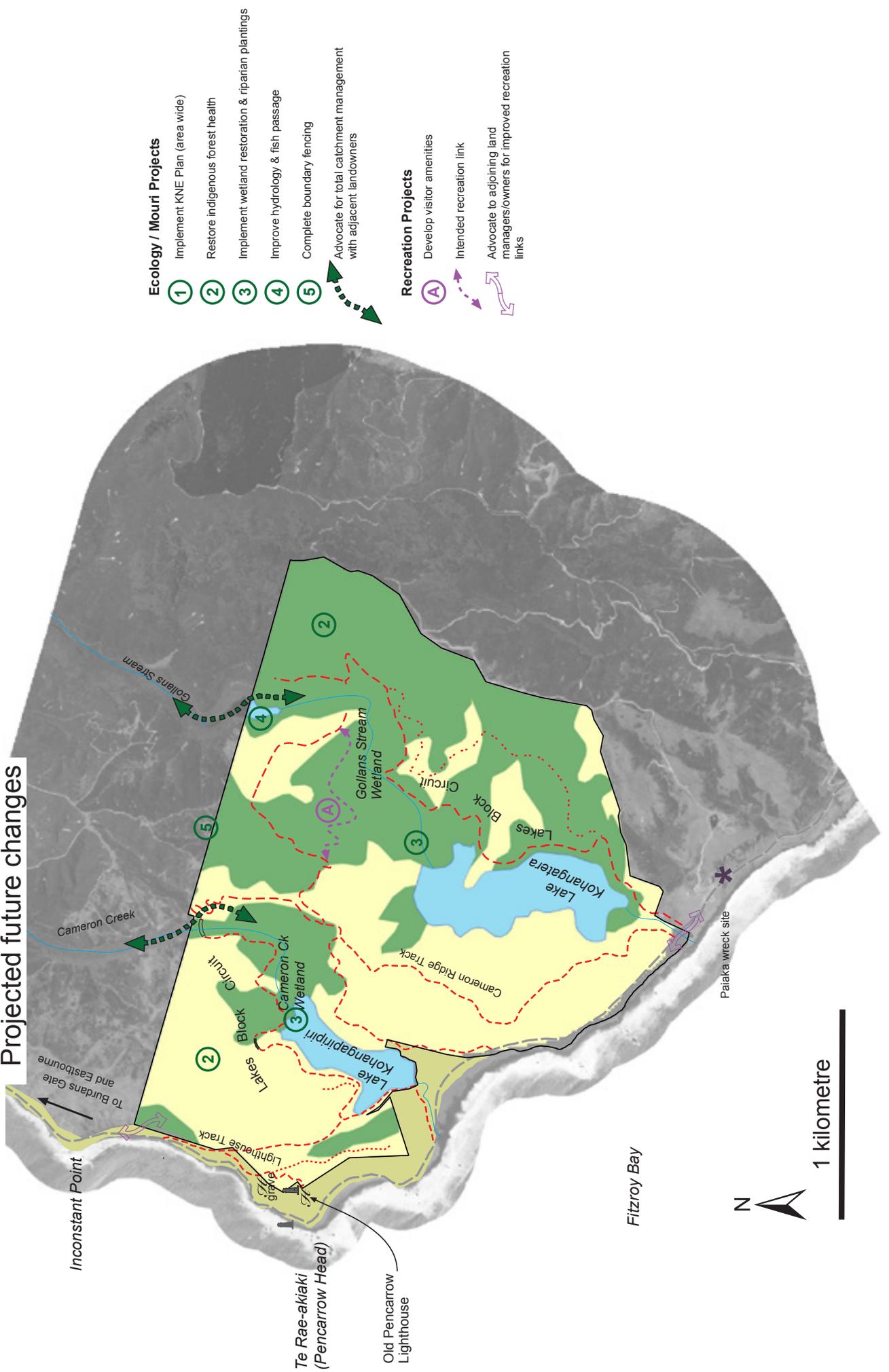
A landscape restoration plan for Kohanga Lakes Block (Park, 2007)

EAST HARBOUR REGIONAL PARK - Parangarahu Lakes Area in 2014



1 kilometre

EAST HARBOUR REGIONAL PARK: Parangarahu Lakes Area - Projected future changes



1 kilometre



Rules applying to activities in the Parangarahu Lakes Reserve of East Harbour Regional Parks & Forests

Section 7.1 – 7.5 [PNP] states what permissions are required for various activities and the process required for obtaining consent. Where this process differs for the Parangarahu Lakes area, this is stated below.

Allowed activities

The following activities are allowed to be undertaken by individuals or groups (of less than 30 people):

- a. Walking, running, hiking, tramping on all trails
- b. Picnicking (including the use of gas stoves) in designated picnic areas
- c. Filming or photography for personal, family and non-commercial purposes
- d. Mountain biking on designated shared trails, with consideration to other users on shared trails.

Taranaki Whānui kaitiaki activities

Recognising that this area is now in joint ownership it is imperative that iwi are able to exercise their kaitiaki responsibilities. To promote Taranaki Whānui taking up their role as kaitiaki of the area, the following activities may occur subject to tikanga and the conditions of the conservation covenant being followed and Roopu Tiaki⁵ oversight.

- a. cultural harvest of karaka, ronga and plant species suitable for weaving
- b. collection of natural materials for other purposes e.g. seed and mouri stones
- c. planting of native vegetation and restocking of eel

⁵ The Roopu Tiaki is the advisory body tasked with developing the management vision and advising on annual work programmes for the Parangarahu Lakes Area. The Roopu Tiaki is comprised of both members from PNBST and senior staff from GWRC.

- d. cultural health index monitoring
- e. day/overnight wananga
- f. conducting research.

Approvals required:

These activities are part of park management and will be planned and undertaken with the approval of the Roopu Tiaki. This differs from other Regional Parks where some of these activities require permits which are processed by GWRC. Where there are short timeframes involved, approval may be granted by agreement between a GWRC and PNBST representative and then retrospectively granted by the Roopu Tiaki at their next meeting.

Managed activities

Permits for Managed Activities are issued by authorised officers and rangers and require approval of the Roopu Tiaki

- a. Specified site and park facilities reservations for groups
- b. Conducting research**
- c. Collection of natural material e.g. seed collection**

** Not associated with Taranaki Whānui kaitiaki activities.

Approvals required

These activities are handled through the permit system which is administered by GWRC. Applications can generally be made online and will be dealt with by the relevant officer. All permits will require approval (either in advance or retrospective) from the Roopu Tiaki.

Restricted activities

These are activities that are not specifically 'allowed' or 'managed' or are not 'prohibited' in the Parangarahu Lakes Area. By their nature, a case-by-case assessment is needed as to whether the activity is approved. Each application is considered on its individual

merits, compatibility and appropriateness to the location. Some applications may need to be publicly notified and can be either approved, subject to conditions, or declined.

They may:

- Be activities that require a lease, licence or easement under the Reserves Act 1977 or other legislation. The Reserves Act sets out specific provisions around what activities require a concession to occur on recreation or scientific reserve.
- Involve the exclusive use of an area for an extended period of time or be large scale events
- Be of a commercial nature.

Approvals required

The processing of all concessions will be managed by GWRC using the guidelines set out in the Parks Network Plan 2011 and the GWRC Parks and Forests Concession Guidelines 2013. The Roopu Tiaki will be the initial decision making body for all concessions, and where necessary recommending the approval or decline of a concession to GWRC, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust or DOC where legislation requires that a particular body makes the final decision.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited:

- a. Spreading of ashes or body parts⁶
- b. Erection of private dwellings and structures
- c. Unauthorised introduction of plants or animals.
- d. Depositing rubbish
- e. Lighting fires

- f. Fireworks
- g. Horse riding
- h. Dog walking
- i. Wilderness camping (not associated with an overnight whananga, refer to Tangata Whenua activities)
- j. Motorised recreation
- k. Hang gliding and parapenting
- l. Recreational hunting
- m. Quarrying
- n. All mining activities.

This table updates Table 9 from the Parks Network Plan, found in Chapter 7 Rules for use and development.

Explanation: Approval for managed activities and Taranaki Whānui kaitiaki activities is given by the Roopu Tiaki. This process is explained in the Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-management Plan.

DOC retains control of the issuing of permits for activities on the Lakes (Scientific Reserve Crown Stratum).

⁶ Note that where disinterment occurs of koiwi that a suitable location would be found to re-bury within the area.w

ACTIVITY CATEGORY: ✓ Allowed ○ Managed → Restricted ✗ Prohibited

ACTIVITY IN PARKS	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	SPECIFIC RULES
Aircraft landings	→	
Animals, excluding dogs/horses	✗	
Ashes – burial/spreading	✗	
Camping (designated sites) **	✗	<i>Not associated with overnight wananga</i>
Camping (wilderness based) **	✗	
Collecting natural materials**	○	<i>Includes conducting research.</i>
Commercial activity	→	
Dog walking	✗	
Events (commercial, or larger than 30 people)	→	
Filming (commercial)	→	
Firearms (refer also to Hunting)	✗	
Fires (open)	✗	
Fireworks	✗	
Fishing**	✗	<i>Note: The Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 regulates recreational fishing and cultural take</i>
Hang gliding / parapenting	✗	
Horse riding	✗	
Hunting	✗	<i>Hunting on GWRC administered land is undertaken only for management purposes.</i>
Informal games	n/a	
Lease/licence	→	<i>Note: This area is subject to requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 for any applications for a lease or licence.</i>
Motorised recreation (Cat A: club/casual)	✗	<i>Pencarrow Road access is controlled by HCC via a permit system. There is a maximum number of recreational vehicles permitted per day.</i>
Motorised recreation (Cat B: special events)	✗	

ACTIVITY IN PARKS	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	SPECIFIC RULES
Mountain biking	✓	
Picnicking	✓	<i>Includes the use of gas stoves in designated places (for less than 30 people)</i>
Swimming / Boating / Waka**	✗	<i>Unless for management purposes.</i>
Tangata Whenua kaitiaki activities	✓	<i>Subject to tikanga beign followed and Roopu Tiaki approval (refer Co-Management Plan). Includes: Cultural harvest, collection of natural materials, restocking of natural flora and fauna, wananga, cultural monitoring and research.</i>
Walking, tramping, running	✓	

**Excluding that associated with Taranaki Whānui kaitiaki activities.

Explanation: Where duck shooting, fishing or use of a boat on adjoining PNBST land or on the Lakes has been approved by the relevant landowner and statutory body, GWRC will grant access over land it administers to enable those activities to be undertaken.