

# Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

## Way Finding Audit

DRAFT Plan



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# Contents

Contents .....	2
Introduction .....	4
Scope .....	5
Visitor Group.....	6
Management Zones.....	7
Management Zones and Sign Types .....	7
Pre-entry.....	7
Main Entrance.....	7
Secondary Entrance.....	8
Transit.....	8
Destination .....	8
Ubiquitous .....	8
Sign Types .....	10
Site Identification 1.....	10
Features:.....	10
Site Identification 2.....	11
Features:.....	11
Information 1.....	12
Features:.....	12
Information 2.....	13
Features:.....	13
Directional (Finger).....	14
Features:.....	14
Directional (Marker Post) .....	15
Features:.....	15
Directional (Sign) .....	15

Features:.....	15
Safety.....	16
Features:.....	16
Recommendations.....	17
Audit Summary.....	18
Reccomendations.....	19
Appendix 1 Signage Photos.....	24
Site Identification 1.....	24
Site Identification 2.....	25
Features:.....	25
Information 1.....	26
Features:.....	26
Information 2.....	27
Features:.....	27
Directional (Finger).....	28
Features:.....	28
Directional (Marker Post).....	29
Features:.....	29
Directional (Sign).....	30
Features:.....	30
Safety.....	31
Features:.....	31
Appendix 2 Symbols.....	32

## Introduction

This report provides an audit of signage requirements on the Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve, made up of 2 lots, one of 6.8250 hectares (Section 1 SO 445650) and 26.8 hectares (Section 2 SO 44560) under the co-management of Ngati Whatua Orakei and Auckland Council through the Ngati Whatua Orakei Reserves Board.

Prior to assessing each land parcel, an evidence base was developed that firstly considered the type of visitor group using or likely to use the reserve. The type of visitor provides context for the desired level of service – including the appropriate type of track network and outdoor visitor structure/s (including signage) for this type of visitor.

Scoping works has been undertaken that provides an assessment of the current level of information relating to the reserve, including land classification, infrastructure, utilities, land use restrictions, key stakeholders and likely impacted natural and cultural & heritage sites.

Site visits have been completed for the reserve, to identify and record current and proposed signage locations, signage type & content and general management zones.

Recommendations on management options for signage was then developed. These recommendations (based on both the site visits and the evidence base developed) include a summary of the general management zones of the reserve, and the signage types and content appropriate in each zone.

The last section of the report provides a summary of the way finding audit, including:

- Summary table of information collated
- Aerial map/s of the reserve, with suggested signage location, type and content
- Supplementary GPS coordinates and photos

This report should be read in conjunction with:

- Signage inventory - the more detailed assessment of each signage location (GPS coordinates; sign type and content; photo number reference) provided as an excel spread sheet
- GPS Coordinates - shape (.shp) files of all GPS coordinates
- Photos – of each sign location

## Scope

This audit applies to:

- Existing outdoor signs erected by agencies on or near the reserve under the governance of Ngati Whatua Orakei and Auckland Council (legacy Councils; Auckland Council; Local Boards; Auckland Transport).
- Proposed locations for the erection of signs on the reserve under the governance of the Ngati Whatua Orakei and Auckland Council.
- The provision of information for way finding only. It does not provide a comprehensive audit of information requirements for the purposes of protecting the health and safety of visitors and employees, or the protection of natural and cultural heritage features.

This audit does not apply to:

- The detailed design and content of signs erected on the reserve. This is a way-finding audit, not a detailed signage manual. It provides an audit of recommended signage locations and the information content required for visitors to find their way around the reserve. A more detailed analysis of adherence to signage standard requirements for various agencies should be part of the development of a detailed *Reserve Signage Manual*. This manual should provide the detailed design and content of signs including materials, style, size, font type/size/setting, and orientation. Use has been made in this report of various examples of signage from different agencies at different locations to produce illustrative “mock-ups” for each recommended signage type. These are not intended as design proofs.
- The design and content of interpretation panels. Interpretation standards emphasise the need to not confuse visitor information with interpretation<sup>1</sup>. Locations identified on the reserve where interpretation signs are recommended are based on site visit observations of where interpretation signs already exist, or at “points of interest” to the report author where further explanation would be valuable.
- Temporary signage.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Conservation; Interpretation Handbook and Standard – Distilling the essence; June 2005

## Visitor Group

Observations during site visits were used to make an assessment of the “typical” type of visitor who may use the reserve. Visitors can be classified into 2 main groups. Locals residents who regularly use the reserve for passive recreation are known as an “Urban Residents” (UR)<sup>2</sup>. Domestic and international visitors who specifically travel to the reserve as a destination are known as “Short Stop Travellers” (SST)<sup>3</sup>.

Analysis of the Standards NZ<sup>4</sup> Handbook for Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures indicates that the corresponding track classification for UR and SST visitors are “Paths” and “Short Walks”. Signage requirements for “Short Walks” used by SST visitors include:

- Tracks shall be clearly signposted with directional signs (that include both walking times and distances) at all track entrances and track junctions. Significant points of interest along or at the end of the track will be signposted.
- An orientation/track information sign should be provided at track entrances where more than one walking option exists.
- Where sprays or chemicals have been or are to be used temporary signs will be erected as a warning to track users.
- At locations where there is a significant change from Short Walk to another standard of track, signs will be provided with appropriate symbols and words to describe the change. Tracks catering for people with mobility difficulties shall be clearly labeled as such by use of appropriate symbols and words at track entrances and at junctions with other tracks.

An anomaly of the reserve is that while it may attract SST visitors, the number, size and extent of the reserve and its trails would make upgrading all existing tracks to “Path” or “Short Walk” standard unfeasible.

These standards have been taken into account as part of the way finding audit by:

- Recording the GPS coordinates of all track entrances and junctions, with recommendations about which junctions require directional signs for the purpose of wayfinding. These are included in the recommendations section for the reserve that is provided in the “Audit Summary” section of this report.
- The development of an “Information Sign” category for use at main entrances.
- The development and use of a “Safety Sign” category where changes to the tracks surface or gradient has the potential to cause a hazard.
- The use of limited mobility symbols on signage where appropriate.

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<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Handbook Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures: SNZ HB 8630:2004

<sup>3</sup> Department of Conservation Visitor Strategy

<sup>4</sup> New Zealand Handbook Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures: SNZ HB 8630:2004

## Management Zones

The reserve has a number of characteristics, including its size, accessibility to destinations (vehicle/non-vehicle; via land/water), extent of built structures, extent and modification of natural & cultural features, and location. A simplification of the reserve into a number of key features (taking account of these differing characteristics) was needed to create a classification of general management zones. These are listed and described below, including a summary of the recommended type of signs to be found in each zone. Figure 1 below provides an illustration of a “generalised” reserve and the types of signage that are found in each zone.

Guiding principles used in the development of management zones and signage type includes:

- The desirability of rationalising signs where practical.
- The desirability of minimising the use of signage on the mid to upper slopes of reserve towards Kepa Road as well as on the coastline on Purewa Creek, due to impacts on landscape values.
- The desirability of maximising information, directional and orientation signage at arrival areas to minimise impacts on landscape values of mid to upper slopes and the coastline.
- Providing separate routes for vehicle and foot traffic through the use of information and directional signage.

Specific explanations about how different signage is utilised to manage visitors is outlined in the recommendations for the reserve in the Audit Summary section of this report.

## Management Zones and Sign Types

### Pre-entry

This includes the roads, paths and coastline used to access the legal boundary of the reserve, and the open space outside and adjacent to the legal boundary of the reserve. For example, travelling to the reserve by vehicle on Kepa Road or via a waka landing site from Purewa Creek

- Directional (finger) signs

### Main Entrance

This is where the main access road crosses the legal boundary into the reserve. For parts of the reserve with no public vehicle access within its’ legal boundary, the main entrance is the entrance which provides the most direct and/or accessible walking route. For example, travelling into the reserve area south of Kepa Road (Section 2 SO 44560) by vehicle at the Kepa Road entrance or by foot into reserve area north of Kepa Road (Section 1 SO 445650) at entrance point labelled ID number 72 in the attached maps to this report. Site visits indicated that a majority of domestic and international visitors who specifically travel to the reserve as a destination are likely to use the main entrances.

- Site Identification Number 1 signs
- Information Number 1 signs

### Secondary Entrance

These are all foot or vehicle (including water) entrances into the reserve that are not the main entrance. Site visits indicate that a majority of visitors using secondary entrances are likely to be local residents who regularly use the reserve for passive recreation. Consideration could be given to the option of having directional marker post signs at secondary entrances. For example, at Kepa Road entrances, or entrances via Kepa Bush. This may provide the preferred outcome of highlighting a secondary entrance to local residents using the reserve without increasing the extent of signage needed to a point that the entrance is used by other visitors.

- Site Identification Number 2 signs (or) Directional (marker post) signs

### Transit

These are all open spaces within the legal boundary of the reserve, between the main and secondary entrances and the reserve's destinations (e.g. mara kai, okahu rakau, summer camp, waka landing). Includes associated buildings, structures and areas of vegetation. Also includes tracks and roads passing through these zones.

- Directional (marker post) signs

### Destination

These are the main visitor areas of the reserve, and associated facilities and lookout areas. Information Number 1 signs are usually replicated at destination zones where there is direct vehicle access (e.g. when visitors have driven straight to the destination and have not read the Information Number 1 sign at the main entrance). This is not likely to be applicable in this reserve. Interpretation panels can be included at destinations; however their content is not within the scope of this report.

- Interpretation signs

### Ubiquitous

Some signage types are appropriate in all zones of the reserve, subject to the guiding principles used in the development of management zones and signage as outlined above.

- Information Number 2 signs
- Directional (signs)
- Safety signs