

Te Ārai Regional Park

Land status (LGA or RA)	Local Government Act 2002 – Te Ārai South Reserves Act (scenic (b) – Te Ārai North, western area of Te Ārai Point and Slipper Lake reserve (Lot 3 DP 189437 only) Recreation reserve – eastern areas of Te Ārai Point, Tomorata Lake reserve and Spectacle Lake reserve Local purpose (esplanade) reserve – foreshore areas of Slipper Lake reserve
Category ⁵⁸	Category 1a – Natural / Cultural – Te Ārai North Category 1b – Destination – Te Ārai Point and Te Ārai South
Size	462.4ha with a further 26.3ha yet to be vested, so close to 489ha in long term
Map 16	Te Ārai Regional Park
Special covenants or legal requirements	As part of the Te Ārai South acquisition there is a public access easement over a 26.3ha area by Tomorata Lake extending through to Slipper Lake. The 26.3ha area is to vest in council in the future. ⁵⁹



1. Park vision

An expansive coastal park protecting a number of threatened species and coastal ecosystems. The rich cultural landscape is acknowledged, and the park provides a diverse range of experiences where people can be active and enjoy the remoteness of this special place.

2. Mana whenua associations

Several mana whenua have associations with Te Ārai Regional Park reflecting their connections, occupation and activities over hundreds of years to the present day.

Some of the cultural values of this park important to mana whenua are outlined below, however we recognise that a number of mana whenua have associations with this park and that further work to strengthen our relationships and partnership will support better understanding of these associations.

⁵⁸ Refer to chapter 4 – Management Framework for the park category descriptions

⁵⁹ As part of the same acquisition a degree of future proofing has been applied to the parkland stretching along the coastal edge. Council is entitled to a park of a minimum width of 100 metres between mean highwater springs mark and the landward side of Lot 300. This includes the ability to move the park boundary should coastal erosion impact the width of the park. The council is able to acquire land from the vendor where it sits within the open space areas shown marked as V, W, X, Y and Z on the Subdivision Plan

TUHINGA HUKIHUKI Mahere Whakahaere i ngā Papa Rēhia ā-Rohe

Working with mana whenua to preserve park values and tell the story of the park is also supported by the management intentions below.

Te Ārai North has been created as a result of subdivision of a former Crown-owned forest. The intent of this subdivision was for Te Uri o Hau to achieve commercial redress under their Treaty of Waitangi Settlement. This plan recognises the gifting of the Te Ārai North parkland from Te Uri o Hau. The addition of this parkland to the regional park was contingent on the approval of the use and development of the adjoining private land as provided for under the Te Ārai North Precinct Plan⁶⁰.

Te Ārai South has also been created as a result of subdivision of a former Crown-owned forest. This management plan recognises the gifting of this southern parkland from Ngāti Manuhiri and that the addition of this parkland was contingent on the approval of the use and development of the adjoining private land as provided for under the Te Ārai South Precinct Plan⁶¹. The precinct plan includes provision for papakāinga development, subdivision and associated housing and commercial development, including sand extraction, camping-style accommodation and recreational activities, including private easements through the park. These activities and development are necessary for Ngāti Manuhiri to achieve commercial redress under their Treaty of Waitangi Settlement, and represent a significant opportunity for Ngāti Manuhiri to advance its economic, cultural and social wellbeing in partnership with others.

The Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 includes a coastal statutory acknowledgment describing the association and connections Ngāti Manuhiri has with Te Ārai, and a statutory acknowledgement of association over the Ngāroto Lakes.

The Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002 includes a statutory acknowledgment over the Mangawhai Marginal Strip adjacent to the park.

The Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015 and the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki Claims Settlement Act 2018 also include a coastal statutory acknowledgement describing the iwi association with this area of the Hauraki Gulf.

The Ngāti Paoa Deed of Settlement 2021 (still to be enacted) contains a statement of association with the coastal area.

3. Park description

Te Ārai Regional Park covers over 467.8ha and stretches 11km along the Te Ārai coastline. The park has three distinct areas: Te Ārai Point is the initial central area held as regional park, with two additions of land at Te Ārai North and Te Ārai South as described in section 2 above.

Together with regional parkland at Pākiri, Te Ārai forms part of a wider coastal park network on the north-eastern coast of the region. This network also includes various land areas managed by Department of Conservation (DOC).

Te Ārai North covers 217ha, extending 5km northward along the coast from Te Ārai Point to the southern boundary of the DOC-managed Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge. DOC marginal strips run along the entire coastal edge and along both banks of the Te Ārai Stream which crosses this area of the park about 2km north of the point. The parkland adjoins a 46-lot coastal residential area and private golf course. A public

⁶⁰ Refer to chapter I of the Auckland Unitary Plan, No. 541

⁶¹ Refer to chapter I of the Auckland Unitary Plan, No. 542

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access easement through private land that is in favour of both the Crown and Council (known as Pacific Road) provides public access to a car park and the coast.

Te Ārai Point consists of 80ha on the Te Ārai Point rock promontory (also known as Eyre's Point). This provides a main arrival area from Te Ārai Point Road and offers expansive views of the coastline. It contains two pristine dune lakes, areas of freshwater wetlands, and is adjacent to a small DOC managed stewardship block.

Te Ārai South currently consists of approximately 165ha of land along 5km of the coast south from Te Ārai Point to Poutawa Stream, extending inland. The intention is to incorporate reserves adjacent to Slipper, Spectacle and Tomorata Lakes currently managed as local parks. DOC marginal strips run along the entire coastal edge and along both banks of the Poutawa Stream. The parkland adjoins a proposed 60-lot coastal residential development, including papakāinga housing and golf courses.

Te Ārai South Precinct Plan provides for the western part of the precinct to be used for sand mining and, following the completion of sand mining by a commercial operator a further approximately 26.3ha of land will be acquired as part of the park. Until the land vests, it is subject to a pedestrian right of way easement and will contribute to the track network (refer to Map 16)

Forestry Road currently provides public access to an arrival area and the coast on its northern edge.

Ecology

The beach and dunes of Te Ārai are part of a larger Mangawhai-Pākiri sand system which is the largest ocean exposed sandy beach on the east coast of the region. The fore-dune and immediate back-dune areas are structurally intact and have relatively natural sand-dune communities, including the best example of pīngao-spinifex sedgeland (DN2)⁶² on mobile sands within the Rodney Ecological District.

Further inland, formerly mobile dunes were stabilised with exotic forestry, planted in the 1960s. These forests have been harvested and native vegetation cover is being progressively restored along the foredune and other areas of the park.

A number of rare and endangered native shorebirds use the inter-tidal zone along the beach frontage for feeding, and the sand flats and lagoon at the mouth of the Te Ārai Stream for breeding and roosting, including the variable oystercatcher, the northern New Zealand dotterel and the threatened New Zealand fairy tern (Nationally Critical).

The western portion of the point contains coastal forest and shrublands dominated by aged pōhutukawa and two small, impounded dune lakes (Little Te Ārai Point Lake and Little Shag Lake). The lakes retain their natural state and are free from pest fish. They are nationally recognised as threatened ecosystems. To the east of these lakes is a wetland mosaic, with raupo reedland (WL19) extending across the valley bottom and interspersed among the raupo are two areas of manuka, greater wire rush, restiad rushland (WL2). This wetland ecosystem type is critically endangered in the Auckland region and only occurs at two locations within the Te Ārai catchment.

The three Ngāroto lakes, Tomorata, Spectacle and Slipper, together with the two lakes at Te Ārai Point have formed over the last 6000 years through wind-blown sand blocking low-lying land to create the lakes present today.

Roto Tomorata has relatively clear water, however the water quality of all three Ngāroto lakes are affected by nutrient rich run-off leading to depleted oxygen affecting fish life. Introduced pest fish have also had a serious negative effect on water quality. The lakes are partially buffered by surrounding wetlands including

⁶² Refer to Appendix 6 for a description of the indigenous terrestrial and wetland ecosystem types

raupō reedland (WL19) (Slipper and Spectacle), and mānuka, greater wire rush, restiad rushland (WL2) (Tomorata). Some remediation includes riparian planting in recent years around Slipper Lake. The lakes and their marginal wetlands provide habitat for a variety of birds including black shag, which have a breeding colony on Spectacle Lake, Australasian bittern, Caspian and fairy terns, spotless crane and fernbird. The shallow waters of Slipper and Spectacle Lakes provide an inland feeding ground where fairy terns that breed on the nearby coast, fish with their recently-fledged young.

To the immediate north of Te Ārai Regional Park is the 245ha Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge (MWR) located on a 3.5 km long sand spit situated between the Mangawhai Harbour estuary and the ocean. The MWR, managed by DOC, is identified in the Northland Conservation Management Strategy as a priority ecosystem that DOC considers nationally important, being significant as breeding grounds for the threatened northern New Zealand dotterel and fairy tern.

Cultural heritage

Mangawhai (including Te Ārai) was originally populated by Ngāi Tāhuhu, who descended from Tāhuhunuiōrangī, an ancestor also to Ngāti Manuhiri. Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Whātua eventually assimilated with Ngāi Tāhuhu and together with Ngāti Manuhiri, Te Uri o Hau have strong spiritual, traditional and historical connections with the area.

Mangawhai (including Te Ārai) was a very important mahinga kai (food gathering area) for the Ngāi Tāhuhu people because of its abundant fish and shellfish resources. Permanent and temporary settlement occurred throughout the area, and there are a number of places with special significance to mana whenua including areas of wāhi tapu. This is especially true around the coastal margin of Mangawhai Harbour, the Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams, and the Ngāroto Lakes (Tomorata, Spectacle and Slipper). Middens identified on the site have been carbon dated to 400 years ago which coincides with the arrival of the Ngāi Tāhuhu people to the Mangawhai area.

Te Ārai o Tāhuhu (the shelter of Tāhuhu) is the name of the headland at Te Ārai Point, and was the location of the pā of the founding ancestor of Ngai Tāhuhunuiarangi, one of a number of pā that guarded coastal kāinga between Te Ārai and Pākiri. The headland is the only prominent point jutting out into the South Pacific Ocean between Mangawhai (Bream tail) and Omaha (Cape Rodney), and was visited frequently by passing waka. It remains an important tribal boundary marker for mana whenua today.

Te Uri o Hau has many wāhi tapu sites in the north that make this a sacred place to them. There are 25 recorded historic heritage sites within the boundary of Te Ārai Regional Park and a further eight sites in the adjacent land or around the park's periphery. Those within the park include the pā site and a number of midden and pits representing Māori settlement activity; and a historic house site, quarry area and boat shed representing historic European settlement. The archaeological evidence at Te Ārai and surrounds attests to a long and potentially intensive settlement of the area and there are likely many more as yet unrecorded sites located in the accretion dunes⁶³.

History of park formation

The first areas of the park were acquired on Te Ārai Point in the 1950s and 1970s by the Rodney District Council. Auckland Regional Council then acquired approximately 50ha on the point in 2008 that formed the basis of the regional park. In 2013 the 28ha of local park at the point was amalgamated into the park.

Te Ārai North was vested in the council in 2015 and Te Ārai South in November 2021. At this time the reserves associated with the Ngāroto lakes, Tomorata, Slipper and Spectacle are yet to be transferred from

⁶³ All of the sites in the regional park are protected under consent conditions and are to be protected and managed by Council.

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local park management. As these are adjacent or proximate to Te Ārai South their transfer into the regional park is being contemplated to provide integrated management with the regional park.



Te Ārai Regional Park (North)

4. Recreation provision

Te Ārai Point has historically been the main arrival area to the popular Te Ārai beach which is a renowned surfing spot. It contains visitor facilities such as vehicle parking, toilets, picnic tables and a certified self-contained vehicle parking area. Tracks have been developed up and around the headland. The top of the headland offers panoramic views along the coast to the north and south. No public access is provided to the freshwater lakes, but the eastern lake can be viewed from the Te Ārai track. The point has two designated hang gliding and paragliding launching sites.

Northern access to the park is off Pacific Road. A small car park is located just behind the fore-dune, while a larger car park has been developed another 1500m back off Pacific Road on the boundary of the park. Existing forestry roads provide walking, biking and horse riding opportunities.

In the south, Forestry Road was accessible to the public prior to the parkland acquisition through a public access easement over the road and people have been accessing the beach through this area. A forestry track on the back-dune provides access along the coast to Poutawa Stream and the southernmost point of the park.

The Ngāroto Lakes are currently managed as local parks. Tomorata Lake has a parking area with a toilet and boat ramp. The lake is used for swimming, kayaking, fishing and water skiing, wakeboarding and jet skiing. There is limited access to Slipper Lake for viewing and picnicking. Currently, there is no public access provided to Spectacle Lake and the parkland is grazed.

5. Pressures, challenges and opportunities

Climate change

The coastal area is susceptible to the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges. The point, in particular, may experience land instability and the car park has already been pulled back to provide a grassed buffer. This plan proposes pulling this back further from the coastal edge.

These threats from climate change and consideration of the identified 170m coastal hazard zone⁶⁴ will need to be assessed as part of any new park development.

Many of the cultural heritage sites at Te Ārai are in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Further work is required to prioritise sites for protection or recover archaeological information. Cultural heritage also needs to be considered when planning for coastal protection and managed retreat, to ensure sites are not adversely affected by revegetation or unplanned site disturbance.

Catering for increasing visitor numbers

Vehicle counts at Te Ārai Point show visitor numbers nearly doubled between 2016 and 2020, with close to 150,000 visitors in 2020. This has caused congestion at the car park on busy weekends and good surf days with people parking along Te Ārai Point Road. There have been requests to provide some overflow parking, seal the road, and introduce speed restrictions.

More infrastructure, such as toilets, is required in all three main arrival areas to help cater for visitors. With Te Ārai South joining the regional park, this will vastly increase the capacity of the park to cater for recreation. It will provide another main arrival area to Te Ārai Beach, as well as arrival areas to Tomorata and Slipper Lakes. The South will be the main recreation hub with a trail system catering for walkers, recreational cyclists and horse riders and opportunities to stay on the park in a new campground and self-contained campervan area.

The proposed Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trail is planned to traverse the park from south to north.

Vehicles on the beach

Vehicles have been banned from the northern beach for some time but access to the southern beach while discouraged, has been raised as an ongoing issue. Visits to this area are expected to grow exponentially with park visitors and from the adjacent residential development. This plan proposes prohibiting all unauthorised vehicle access to the beaches adjacent to the regional park.

Restoration and revegetation

Community volunteer groups have made significant contributions to protecting rare and endangered native shorebirds, including predator control and monitoring of breeding programmes. These efforts have been focused around Te Ārai Stream and the headland. Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams and the dune lakes provide opportunities for further habitat restoration.

This plan proposes banning powered watercraft from Tomorata Lake all year round. Powered watercraft, particularly wakeboarding boats, create unnaturally high waves that damage marginal wetland vegetation and cause stress to waterbirds and disrupt nesting at the water's edge⁶⁵. Tomorata Lake is also subject to a study addressing water quality through the control of pest fish. Recent lake water quality monitoring

⁶⁴ Identified in the Te Ārai Coastal Hazard Assessment prepared by Jim Dahm in 2015.

⁶⁵ The Auckland Unitary Plan currently bans motorised boats on the lake from 1st September through until 19 December to protect bird breeding.

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suggests that this lake is on a downward slide towards nutrient enrichment and algal dominance. Pest fish (rudd and tench) are likely to be contributing to the decline at this lake and the Regional Pest Management Plan includes a site-led project to manage pest fish in this lake to reduce the internal cycling of nutrients in the lake. At present monitoring data is being collected to inform the management approach.

Further planting along riparian margins will be undertaken, particularly Te Ārai Stream and Spectacle and Slipper Lakes.

Revegetation of the former exotic forested area has commenced as part of the consent conditions for the subdivisions. This will still need to be supported by ongoing pest control and further planting over the next few years, which will include more diverse species, and some canopy species as vegetation matures.

Some stands of exotic forest will be retained. They will provide for recreational experiences in shade and, in the north, a buffer to adjacent residents. This will be dependent on the age of the trees and any thinning and harvesting requirements to address public safety. Most areas will be progressively revegetated with indigenous species.

The new subdivisions in the north and south have a 'no pets' rule given the high ecological values of the area. While dog walking is currently available at the Point and at Tomorata Reserve under the dog policy and Dog Management Bylaw 2019, it is anticipated that an increase in local residents along with visitor numbers will potentially require a consistent approach be taken to dogs at Te Ārai⁶⁶. This plan takes an advocacy position to ban dogs from the entire park.

Enhancing mana whenua connections

Both Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Manuhiri have aspirations to reconnect to the parkland and have greater involvement in its management.

The park has a rich Māori heritage and contains many important sites of significance to mana whenua. There are numerous opportunities to enhance the visitor experience through promoting cultural identity.

Mana whenua seek opportunities to inform visitors and share mātauranga of the land's cultural significance and unique natural features, including the importance of the habitat protection measures. This includes aspirations for a cultural centre and trails through the park and the installation of pou, cultural art and design in wayfinding, such as in track marker poles to reflect their association to the land. There are opportunities to develop interpretation around the significance of the pā site on Te Ārai Point and other important sites.

Mana whenua have requested involvement in conducting shore bird management and monitoring initiatives as well as other recovery programmes associated with the biodiversity of the bush, lakes and streams, including the use of cultural indicators. This includes supplying plants to support the park's revegetation programmes. Ngāti Manuhiri has a particular interest in the restoration of the Ngāroto Lakes.

Mana whenua have also requested any concessions on the park be limited to small scale operations and that proposed lease or concession opportunities be offered to mana whenua in the first instance.

Previous consultation in 2017-18

We consulted on a variation to the 2010 Regional Parks Management Plan to bring in the new sections of this park under the wider management plan. We reviewed the feedback received from mana whenua, community and organisations from that consultation process as part of the input into forming this park chapter.

⁶⁶ Any changes to dog access rules will be addressed through a review of the council's dog policy and bylaws.

6. Management focus

Te Ārai North and the western area of Te Ārai Point will be managed as a Category 1a park (Natural / Cultural) which also reflects its status as a scenic reserve under the Reserves Act. The management of this area of the park will recognise, the critical importance of the foreshore as a habitat for rare and threatened coastal bird species such as the fairy tern and NZ dotterel. The need to protect the significant ecological and archaeological values will mean recreational access will be limited to walking, cycling and horse trails. All trails will be directed away from sensitive ecological and habitat areas and where possible avoid known archaeological sites.

The arrival area at Te Ārai Point and Te Ārai South will be managed as Category 1b park (Destination) to reflect the current and anticipated future high visitation levels, with people accessing the beach and the recreation hub.

This is the management focus for Te Ārai for the next 10 years.

- Strengthening our relationships with mana whenua and exploring ways for more involvement in park management.
- Ensuring that the reserve land is managed in accordance with the primary purposes it is held for under the Reserves Act.
- Continuing and enhancing programmes to manage threatened species and protect the coastal ecosystem, including targeted pest control.
- Incorporating the new parkland into the regional park through developing track connections.
- Identifying and protecting cultural heritage places within the park.
- Developing a new arrival area, visitor facilities and campground in Te Ārai South.
- Managing the impacts of coastal processes on the park, including reconfiguring the arrival area at Te Ārai Point.
- Providing the opportunity for mana whenua to tell their stories.

7. Management intentions

The management intentions listed below are subject to resourcing being available and need to be read alongside the general policies of this plan.

1. Work with mana whenua to explore their priorities and involvement in delivering the following management intentions.

Natural

2. Protect and progressively restore the habitat quality of all existing lakes, stream margins, wetlands and dune seeps, including through riparian planting.
3. Continue to manage the dune systems to improve their natural form and stability, including reshaping and replanting as required.
4. Continue with a targeted pest plant and animal control programme across all areas of the park, integrated with pest control initiatives being undertaken on adjacent public and private land.

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5. Protect the dune systems and sensitive ecological areas and habitats from the adverse impacts of development and recreational activity by limiting access to the points and trail systems shown indicatively on Map 16.
6. Provide for and maintain the revegetation of the dunes and de-forested areas in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plans⁶⁷, ensuring this includes the provision of shade.
7. Retain some areas of the remaining exotic woodlots to provide shade and shelter for recreation activities, while undertaking some thinning and underplanting with native species. As this native planting establishes progressively removing the pines.
8. Support recovery programmes that manage threatened species, including the management of Tara iti / New Zealand fairy tern led by the Department of Conservation.
9. Access points to the beach and the development of tracks in the vicinity of the mouths of the Te Ārai and Poutawa streams will be managed to minimise the impact of human activity on the shorebirds.
10. Provide information on the ecological values of the area and the importance of the shorebird population at all beach access points.
11. Provide opportunities for viewing and interpretation of the shorebird habitat in discrete locations and in a manner that does not disturb the birds.
12. Prohibit unauthorised vehicle access to all dunes and beaches adjacent to Te Ārai Regional Park.
13. Support mana whenua and key stakeholders in monitoring and recording of the productivity of breeding birds at the Te Ārai and Poutawa Stream mouths.
14. Apply more intense management in the following areas to protect the habitats and sensitive ecosystems:
 - a. up to 500 metres from the mouth of the Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams
 - b. over Little Te Ārai Point Lake, Little Shag Lake and the wetland areas on Te Ārai Point
 - c. over the council managed foreshores areas of Slipper, Spectacle and Tomorata Lakes.
15. Special management measures may be introduced within the habitat management areas identified in 14 on a temporary or permanent basis to prevent the adverse impacts of human activity, including the exclusion of any recreational activity, if necessary.
16. Support a restoration programme for Tomorata Lake that manages unwanted fish to improve water quality.
17. Investigate closing Tomorata Lake to powered watercraft, with the exception of those used for research or aquatic pest control, to address adverse impacts on the ecological values and water quality⁶⁸.
18. Advocate for prohibiting dogs from the entire regional park in recognition of the park's high ecological values.

⁶⁷ Vegetation site management plans are a requirement of the Te Ārai North and South Precinct Plans

⁶⁸ In accordance with Wells, R (2016) The Impacts of Recreational Activities on Lake Tomarata's Ecology and Water Quality, Prepared for Auckland Council by NIWA, Technical Report 2016/033.

Cultural heritage

19. Continue to survey and monitor the state of the cultural heritage places within the park, including defining their spatial extent, and reviewing or developing site specific management actions.
20. Work with mana whenua to identify, protect and interpret Māori heritage.
21. Facilitate the opportunity for mana whenua to tell their stories, including the potential development of a cultural heritage trail and working with them to develop interpretation around the significance of the pā site on Te Ārai Point.

Recreation and use

22. Maintain Pacific Road as an arrival area to Te Ārai North that provides visitor infrastructure in the areas shown on Map 16, including:
 - a. a small parking area close to the beach with visitor information
 - b. a larger parking area off Pacific Road on road reserve, before you enter the park with water supply and visitor information, with shade tree planting
 - c. installing toilets at the eastern intersection of Pacific and Canal Roads.
23. Re-configure the existing arrival area at Te Ārai Point to:
 - a. reduce the vehicle parking closest to the beach and restore the dunes in this area
 - b. consider how best to provide multi-modal access to the park including safe arrival and parking for buses and bicycles
 - c. provide safer access to the beach
 - d. expand the parking area by the toilets to take in the self-contained campervan area which will be relocated to Te Ārai South
 - e. upgrade the toilet facilities and the picnicking areas
 - f. improve visitor information
 - g. provide more shade planting.
24. Investigate locations to install automatic gates on Pacific Road, Te Ārai Point Road and Forestry Road to manage vehicle access to the park.
25. Providing a place in Te Ārai North or at the Point to inform visitors of the land's cultural significance and unique natural features, including the importance of the habitat protection measures.
26. Develop a network of tracks in accordance with the general layout shown on Map 16, that:
 - a. provides for walking, running, tramping, recreational cycling and horse riding
 - b. provides a series of loops, connecting the new areas of the park with Te Ārai Point and provides access to the beaches and Tomorata and Slipper Lakes
 - c. avoids ecologically sensitive areas and provides buffers between the tracks and the foredunes and/or park boundary
 - d. recognises in the south, tracks through the future sand mining operations area, may need to be occasionally realigned to respond to movement in the sand mining operations, in accordance with the provisions of the Te Ārai South Precinct Plan.

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27. Direct all recreational activities such as walking, running, tramping, recreational cycling, horse riding, and camping onto designated trails and sites. Off-track activity is prohibited.
28. Prohibit horses from within 200m of Te Ārai Stream, except at a designated crossing point and 50m from Poutawa Stream.
29. Provide for non-powered watercraft access such as kayaks or canoes, to Slipper Lake; and continue to provide specific areas for swimming at Tomorata Lake, while water skiing is still in operation (refer to management intention 17 above).
30. Ensure all new park infrastructure, with the exception of car parking or temporary structures, is not constructed within the 170m coastal hazard zone⁶⁹ and that existing infrastructure is removed when practicable.
31. Support a limited number of small-scale commercial activities that enhance the use of the park, such as a surf school, ensuring these are appropriately located in the vicinity of arrival areas and do not compromise the remote visitor experience.
32. Add design features to the new Te Ārai Stream bridge that address public safety and ensure the bridge fits more aesthetically with the park environment.
33. Consult with the local surf lifesaving clubs about facilitating mobile surf lifesaving services at Te Ārai Point if the need arises.

8. Special management zone

Te Ārai South Recreation Hub SMZ

The parkland off Forestry Road is relatively expansive and provides opportunity to develop facilities that support a range of active and passive recreation. This will provide access to the beach, Slipper Lake and a network of tracks. Some of the area will be retained in exotic forest.

Access into this area may be achieved off Forestry Road or through a new entrance off Atkins Road.

Management intentions

34. Prepare and progressively implement a concept plan for the Te Ārai South recreation hub that includes the development of:
 - a. new arrival areas as you enter the park and at the beach end of Forestry Road providing parking, water supply, toilets and visitor information
 - b. a vehicle-based campground with water supply and toilets
 - c. a designated parking area for certified self-contained vehicles
 - d. parking for horse floats
 - e. a network of tracks
 - f. a park depot and ranger station.

⁶⁹ Vegetation site management plans are a requirement of the Te Ārai North and South Precinct Plans

9. Key stakeholders

In addition to supporting partnerships with mana whenua, we also seek to work with many other community and governmental groups and volunteers in preserving important park taonga and improving parks. Key stakeholders include:

Key stakeholders	Activity
Auckland Transport	Management of access roads to the park
Department of Conservation	Management of Te Ārai Point Stewardship Block and marginal strips along the coast and Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams and adjacent Mangawhai Wildlife Refuge, protection of wildlife, and management of recreational activities
Fire and Emergency NZ	Fire protection and rescue service
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	Management and protection of heritage sites and places
Mangawhai surf lifesaving club	Potential satellite operation at Te Ārai
New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust, the Dotterel Care Group, Shorebird Trust and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Birds NZ (Ornithological Society of NZ)	Research, predator control and coastal habitat restoration to protect threatened birdlife. Implementation of wider community conservation plan for predator-free buffer zone from Mangawhai to Pakiri north
Ngāroto restoration group	Restoration of Slipper, Spectacle and Tomorata Lakes
Tara Iti Residents Association Inc., resident association for Te Ārai South, Tara Iti golf course and adjacent landowners	Pest control and restoration activities, after-hours access to the park
Te Ārai Beach Preservation Society Inc and Save Te Ārai	Maintaining the wilderness character and scenic quality of the park, maintaining access to Te Ārai North, protecting birdlife
Te Ārai North Ltd. (TANL) and Te Ārai South Ltd. (TASL)	Management agreements relating to restoration and enhancement of the parkland