



Kaipātiki Vegetation Management Questions and Answers

What is the overall vision for Kaipātiki?

1. Kaipātiki (formerly the Parakai Recreation Reserve) is a geothermal reserve in the township of Parakai, north of Auckland.
2. The Kaipātiki Reserve Management Plan adopted in October 2017 seeks to unlock the potential of the geothermal reserve as a destination in the South Kaipara region while also restoring the site to its historical and cultural prominence as a place of healing. Read the Plan on the Auckland Council website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.
3. A key focus is on enhancing open space, recreation and visitor experience and creating a space that people can share and enjoy – a place that supports the local economy, enhances the unique features of Kaipātiki and reflects Ngāti Whātua and the local communities.
4. The front zone of the reserve will become a space that allows for safe play for all ages with well-designed facilities to support group interaction such as shade, shelter and picnic facilities. The middle zone becomes a space for enhanced organised recreation and a unique visitor experience, including visitor accommodation.

What are the details of the tree removals?

5. Vegetation management including the removal of some trees is necessary to open up the front of the reserve for public amenity and to enhance the overall open space, recreation and visitor experience offering envisioned in the Kaipātiki Reserve Management Plan.
6. Te Poari acknowledges the history of plantings on the reserve over many decades, much of which was supported and led by local families. In tribute to this, treasured older exotic trees in good health will be retained, such as several large English Oak trees and the large London Plane tree near the corner of Springs Rd and Parkhurst Rd. Only trees of poor health or form, or trees in poor locations will be removed – see note 11.
7. Noting the history of community and family-led planting at the reserve, community planting days will be planned for the future planting of new native trees such as Pohutukawa, Totara, Puriri, Karaka, Kowhai, Taraire in optimal locations.

8. Safety is also a consideration. Removing dense tree coverage through the front of the reserve and around the reserve perimeter will increase visibility and sightlines, which will discourage anti-social behaviour and enhance this area of the reserve as a safer and more appealing option for public and family use.
9. 126 trees will be removed from the front and middle zones of the reserve in this phase of works. A Resource Consent for this work has been granted.
10. An independent arboriculture report was commissioned early in the planning stages. This report surveyed all existing trees in the front and middle zones on the reserve and considered them against the criteria of age and life expectancy, species, tree health and any structural defects, any impact on infrastructure, and amenity values.
 - Useful life expectancy – this is a general measure of how long the tree will provide beneficial elements to the environment before it becomes a safety factor. This assessment is based on the tree’s current condition and projected growth.
 - Species – this provides a guidance on which species are more suitable for long-term retention for the use in the reserve setting.
 - Whole tree condition – this is an assessment of the tree’s health and vitality. Indicators include leaf size, color and condition, foliage distribution and density, presence of die back, extension growth, etc.
 - Tree form – provides an indication of crown shape. Crown shapes are influenced generally by their surroundings, canopy suppression, light availability and branch loss, which can have varying impacts on their symmetry.
 - Amenity – generally considers the appropriateness and value of the tree in the reserve, any cultural and/or heritage significance and general ornamental value. Also factored into this particular survey is the size of the tree.
 - Structure – considers whether the tree has any defects that are likely to compromise it long-term.
 - Function – considers how the tree contributes to the setting, for example, ground stabilisation, the amenity of the site, contribution to wildlife, etc. This is weighed up against any negative issues the trees may be causing, for example, conflict and damage to structures, the suitability of the growing location, health and safety of people, etc.

11. The 126 trees marked for removal are assessed as being of negligible to fair value in terms of the above-mentioned assessment criteria. The trees to be removed include trees of poor health or form, exotic pest species, trees that are in poor locations for the species, or in locations that restrict opening up the front reserve for public amenity.
12. The Phoenix Palms in the reserve will be removed. Phoenix Palms are listed as a 'surveillance pest plant' in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy. Surveillance pest plants are species that have been identified as having significant impacts on the biosecurity values of the Auckland region. Under the Strategy, landowners are encouraged to protect the environment by removing these species from their properties. Read the Strategy on the Auckland Council website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.
13. Care has been taken to ensure a good balance between removing trees to open up the front reserve space for enhanced public amenity, and the retention of native trees and notable trees.
14. The tree removal contractor is Treesafe, who are experienced in vegetation management on reserves and have a proven health and safety record.
15. Trees will be carefully dismantled in sections to minimise ground disturbance, and tree material will be chipped on-site and then removed.
16. Stumps will be ground down to below ground level, new topsoil will be applied and grass sewn to create an even grassed surface for recreation.

Who are Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara?

17. As part of the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Treaty of Waitangi settlement in 2013, Kaipātiki (formerly the Parakai Recreation Reserve) was vested in Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Auckland Council to own and manage as a recreation reserve.
18. Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara (formerly known as the Parakai Recreation Reserve Board) is a co-governance entity comprised of equal membership from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Auckland Council. Te Poari is independent of Auckland Council and has independent decision-making functions.

Where do I go for more information?

19. More information about the enhancements and future vision for the reserve are detailed in the Kaipātiki Management Plan which can be found on the Auckland Council website. Go to www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search for Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara.
20. Any questions about the vegetation management work and the development vision for Kaipātiki can be directed to kaipatiki@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or 09 301 0101.