

Help us return the former Greenmount Landfill to a park

We want your help

We are creating a new local park and native forest on the former Greenmount Landfill site. This is your opportunity to have your say on the new plan.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to create a masterplan to guide development of this land into a new park. The site is currently undergoing final clean fill operations and removal of all surface and underground landfill assets. Once these works are completed the site will resemble its original form as a volcanic cone, prior to its quarrying and subsequent use as a landfill. There is now an opportunity to rehabilitate the site and create a significant and exciting green space for the local community.

Context:

The 54ha site is located at the corner of Harris and Smales Roads in East Tamaki. It is enclosed by industrial and commercial businesses to the west, and as residential housing to the east. Due north, there is a continuous open space corridor that runs out to meet the Tamaki River, and a number of other vegetated stream corridors are present in the nearby area.

Project Objectives:

- Develop site as a public open space and open up access throughout the park.
- Identify location and scale for future facilities and/or land use types.
- Identify, improve and interpret natural and cultural heritage values.
- Ensure that ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the landfill is not compromised.
- Design to suit the unique constraints of the site, based on its former usage as a landfill.



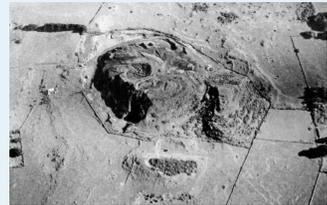
SITE CONTEXT

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Bringing you up to date

Timeline



Maunga known as 'Te Puke o Tara' a part of the East Tāmaki volcanic field. The untouched 60m cone bore a crater full of forest

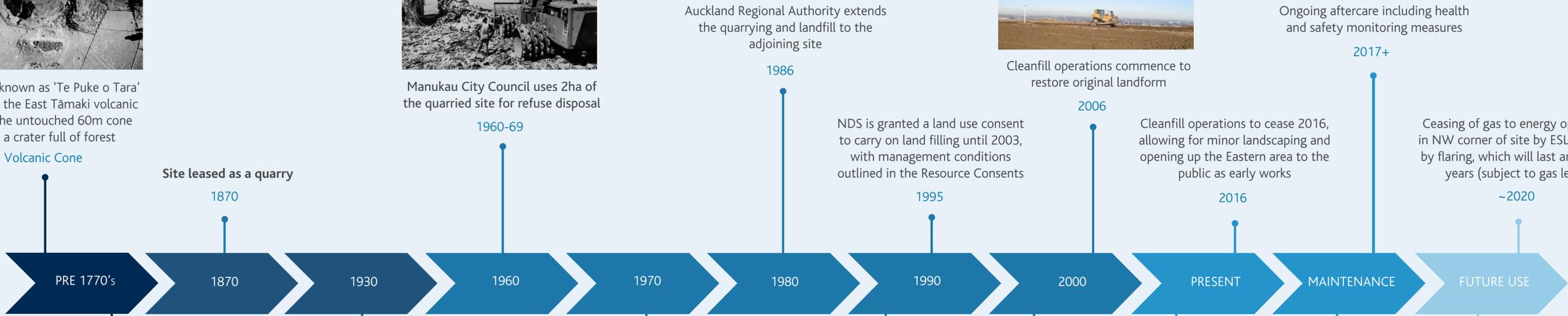
Volcanic Cone



Manukau City Council uses 2ha of the quarried site for refuse disposal



Cleanfill operations commence to restore original landform



Maori History

Pā site. Inland bush and stream headwaters were utilised for customary resources and practices, landform contained terracing, pits, whare puni, karaka trees and mangaeo. The rich volcanic gardening soils were criss-crossed by Maori stone-walled garden boundaries enclosing earth and stone garden mounds.



1932 Land gifted to council by Mrs Sarah Jane Lushington, to be used as a public park

1979 Leased as a regional landfill by Auckland Regional Council to fully backfill the quarry



1991 Northern Disposal Systems Ltd (NDS) take over Greenmount refuse disposal operations, a public body owned by the Council. NDS later becomes Envirowaste Services Limited (ESL)

2005 Rubbish dump is closed

2016 Iwi co-design Concept Plan Development

- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Local Board Adoption
- Funding application based on concept plan

2017 Complete closure of landfill all consent conditions to be met by ESL



2018-19 Opening of park, possibly in stages as funding allows

Ongoing aftercare including health and safety monitoring measures

2017+

~2020 Ceasing of gas to energy operations in NW corner of site by ESL, followed by flaring, which will last another 30 years (subject to gas levels)

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What we have now

Existing site conditions



LEGEND

--- Current Park Boundary

Note: Drone photo taken in June 2015

Site Condition:

Once remedial works are complete, the site will consist of a 70m height grassed dome with a flat peak. Some established screen planting is located along the perimeter of the site, as well as safety fencing. The western perimeter of the site includes a gas to energy plant, stormwater detention ponds, screen planting and some Envirowaste building (ESL) compounds most of which will be removed. South of the site is a privately owned service station and a linear strip of properties to be retained by ESL by 2017. Currently access to the site is via Smales Road approximately 100m from the Harris Road intersection.

Site Photos:



FIGURES left to right, top to bottom: View from summit towards Maungarei Mount Wellington, view towards Rangitoto, existing roading and contamination pond structures (to be removed), site infrastructure, example of below ground gas monitoring infrastructure, existing vegetation along Harris Road, stormwater ponds at western boundary of park.

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Site constraints

Important considerations for safe public usage of a former landfill site



LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| - - - Current park boundary | Stormwater ponds | ESL depot lease area |
| Existing road to remain | Proposed service 'bench tracks' | ESL gas plant lease area |
| Area within the former quarry walls | Dry stone wall | |

General Constraints:

- Due to the organic nature of the landfill material, settlement across this area is occurring, and is expected to continue over the next decade. This could be up to 2m in places, and means that structures/buildings would become very expensive in this area, due to the footings required. Also significant gas risks to be managed through building and structure design, at a very high cost.
- The entire site has depths of cleanfill up to 20m, with the top 1m being fill meeting the quality required for open space. Topsoil coverage however is quite shallow (150-200mm), which could restrict plant growth.
- Fire safety regulations issues around gas production on closed landfills and requirements to locate and access infrastructure preclude long grass, and this site would be in the order of 40-60k per annum to mow.
- Sensitive landuse activities (food growing) or those introducing potential ignition sources (e.g. BBQ's) are not generally suitable for the site.
- There is a very small (but not zero) likelihood of issues arising with gas leachate or stability that may require restriction of public access, maintaining some form of fence around the former landfill area until the site is safe for public re-entry.

Plan Notes:

- ① Current entry to site is too close to major intersection.
- ② Sediment treatment ponds: no longer required for landfill purposes. Associated buildings/structures will be removed. Potential opportunity to treat stormwater runoff from Harris and Smales Roads provided capacity is sufficient.
- ③ Area to remain leased to ESL until 2017.
- ④ The light green hatch denotes the area outside of former quarry/landfill - generally unencumbered by constraints. This can be considered 'natural ground' although it does feature some buried gas lines and at grade monitoring points.
- ⑤ Gas to energy plant. Required for the foreseeable future to ensure safe venting of gases off the landfill.
- ⑥ Dark green hatch denotes landfill constraints, see general notes above.
- ⑦ Steep grades, safety from falling required.
- ⑧ Access required for vehicles to access critical gas monitoring points.
- ⑨ Cluster of monitoring points, requiring fenced exclusion of public access for efficient management. Fencing will be removed once deemed no longer necessary.
- ⑩ Existing drystone wall with heritage value, to be retained as far as possible.
- ⑪ Private property, not held by council.

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Aspirations for the park

Draft design principles



1) Natural Environment:

- Investigate all options to rehabilitate the site, creating a habitat for native flora and fauna.
- Repurpose existing water treatment ponds. Investigate options to treat Harris and Smales Road, as well as the surrounding catchment, picking up the contaminant heavy intersections in particular.
- Investigate use of native plants which would have been present historically in this area.



2) Recreation:

- Provide recreational opportunities for a wide range of user-groups, including areas for walking and cycling, informal active recreation and play, as well as passive areas for sitting and viewing the landscape.
- Create activity areas based around a generally natural theme, picking up former landscape cues.
- Create an open space that allows for local workers to retreat on their lunch break.



3) Connectivity and Legibility:

- Provide extensive walking and cycling access, including maintenance access to monitoring wells (extent minimised and visually recessive).
- Restrict vehicle access (other than maintenance vehicles) to the entry area.
- Create legible, elegant entry structures which tell the story of the site.
- Provide sufficient carparking, but in a discrete and minimal manner.



4) Identity and Story Telling:

- Create a park landscape that reflects and celebrates the area's identity (such as incorporating local materials and stories into the park design).
- Embrace the topography of the site and the design opportunities it presents.
- Install both interpretive signage and way-finding features.
- Consider interpretative signage/sculpture at the summit, identifying and describing the landmarks visible.
- Investigate opportunities for sculpture/artwork combined with pond reshaping.



5) Design in accordance with Te Aranga Maori Design Principles:

This was a site of great historical significance prior to European settlement.

- Mana - Rangatiratanga, authority
- Whakapapa - Names and naming
- Tohu - The wider cultural landscape
- Taiao - The natural environment
- Mauri Tu - Environmental health
- Mahi Toi - Creative expression

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What could happen in this park

Draft Concept Plan



- ① New entry off Smales Road, possibly signalised, to be confirmed with Auckland Transport. Sculptural piece to denote Waharoa (or entry) to the site.
- ② Existing water treatment ponds (no longer required for contamination purposes) reshaped and repurposed to treat and attenuate runoff from Smales Rd, Harris Rd and the surrounding area.
- ③ Main entry road generally follows alignment of the current site access. Width kept to a minimum (5.5 – 6m) and extent limited to the lower portion of the site.
- ④ Four bays of carparking allow provision for 60 carpark spaces. This is in line with similar provision elsewhere locally. Bicycle racks will be provided at each of the carpark bays.
- ⑤ Vegetated swale treats carpark runoff, access to play area from carparks is via a series of boardwalks.
- ⑥ Circulation paths around wetland/ponds area and the play pods, 1.8m width.
- ⑦ Bird hide or similar structured disguises outflow from ponds, and provides educational component.
- ⑧ Double basketball halfcourt (could also be full court if preferred).
- ⑨ Series of play 'pods', with differing age groups/functions/play styles to each. Landform concept to be based around terraces and/or kumara pits (both of which were formerly present on the site).
- ⑩ Public vehicular access restricted beyond this point.
- ⑪ Grassed areas for picnicking. Specimen trees and 'huts/whare' for shade, and a sand based volleyball court for recreation.
- ⑫ Fitness/activity area. This could be a series of posts/wall/rope structures, in the manner of an 'assault course' as well as more traditional fixed fitness equipment. Aesthetic/concept to tie in with playground.
- ⑬ Informal bmx/mountain bike circuit, in a forested setting. Natural course envisaged, with a mounded dirt surface.
- ⑭ Dog off leash area, fenced securely (approximately 1 acre size).
- ⑮ Existing water treatment ponds reshaped and repurposed to treat and attenuate runoff from Harris Rd and the surrounding area.
- ⑯ Main 'spine' walking/cycling access to summit, 3m width, walkable grades and all weather surface. Also serves as maintenance/monitoring access for landfill infrastructure.
- ⑰ 1.8m width walking tracks, benched into sideslope. Walkable grades, possible gravel surface and steps where required.
- ⑱ Relatively flat slope area, mixture of grass and meadow planting.
- ⑲ Predator proof fence surrounds majority of forested portion of site (longterm could require separate funding).
- ⑳ Summit remains grass, lightly banded reminiscent of tuff ring, also mitigating prevailing wind for users.
- ㉑ Sculptural lookout feature, tbc with Iwi and featuring the names of local visible landmarks.
- ㉒ Natural play area, surrounded by vegetation (limited mid canopy) and making use of the natural contour of this space.

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What could happen in this park

Conceptual sections



REFERENCE PLAN - refer to sheet 11 for notes

SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B



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What could this park look like

Artist impression - overall site



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What could this park look like

Artist impressions - play 'pool' area



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What could this park look like

Aspirational images



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



FEATURE ELEMENTS



RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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What could you experience in this park

Play 'pods' draft concept plan



- ① Dual pan toilet facility, located in close proximity to the play pods, but at a discrete distance.
- ② Main spine access to summit, links to carparking area via a series of boardwalks.
- ③ Groups of 15 bay carparking areas, access maintained around the front of the space to the boardwalks across the swale.
- ④ Stormwater treatment swale.
- ⑤ Main access road, public vehicle access terminates at last carpark
- ⑥ Maintenance/operational vehicle access only from this point onwards. Access controlled via gate or bollard.
- ⑦ Dual half basketball court (could also be a single full court).
- ⑧ Low planting separates differing play pods, and includes specimen tree planting for shade.
- ⑨ Accessible play area, wetpour surface. Potential zero depth waterplay features
- ⑩ Pallisade/terrace play pod. Benched astroturf surface with palisade inspired hut structures and slides.
- ⑪ Proprietary play equipment pod.
- ⑫ Circuit play, timber structures built into planting.
- ⑬ 1.8m wide circulation, possible learn to bike circuit in this area, enclosing the play pods.
- ⑭ Grassed picnic/event lawn, with specimen trees for shade.
- ⑮ Whare/hut structure for events/birthday parties etc.
- ⑯ Volleyball court, natural compacted sand surface.
- ⑰ Fitness trail – possible assault style course, as well as proprietary equipment.
- ⑱ Natural mountain bike/BMX trail, featuring a sequence of mounded earth jumps.
- ⑲ Bunded area (possibly terraced) to reuse fill from playground excavation on site, and buffer sound from Harris Rd.

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What could you experience in this park

Potential play experiences

Climbing



Spinning



Flying fox



Swinging



Hanging



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What could you experience in this park

Potential play experiences

Water play



Rocking



Balance



Scotering/Biking



Sliding



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