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## Introduction

**Develop parks that are well connected with the surrounding environment, both visually and physically. Ensure that designs maximise accessibility, and provide safe and legible movement networks that cater for a range of people.**

## Connect People

**Connect people to the park and to each other.**

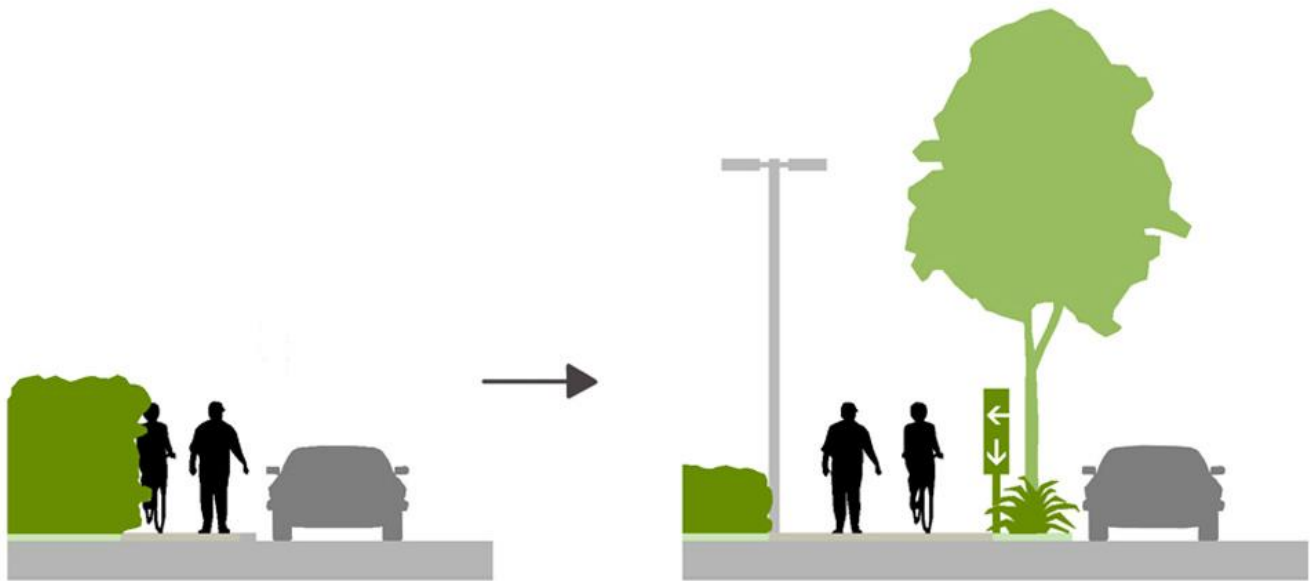
Create convenient and safe connections with surrounding cycle, walking and public transport networks which are easy to access and navigate. Make the park accessible for those with mobility and sensory impairments, where practical. Carefully plan the layout and clustering of facilities, so that people can meet, socialise, and spend time together in the park.

### **Create safe movement and circulation**

Providing safe and well-connected movement networks will encourage frequent use of the park and result in healthier people and safer parks. Create pathways with amenity facilities and rest areas, and ensure movement networks accommodate different modes of travel. Design for barrier free access and exceed accessibility requirements whenever possible, to allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy these spaces.

Do this by:

- ensuring all park entrances are universally accessible, including provision of wheelchair, pram and mobility scooter access
- identifying obstacles at entrances which might restrict access. Investigate how they can be minimised or removed
- integrating ramps alongside stairs or instead of stairs
- raising grades around amenity facilities and other park buildings, to eliminate the need for a step
- providing connected walking paths
- ensuring access routes to park facilities link well with general circulation paths
- incorporating wayfinding signage and park maps at entrances and key intersections
- separating bicycles from pedestrians where conflicts are anticipated
- ensuring that increased sightlines exist at potential points of conflict between bicycles and pedestrians
- incorporating emergency help points in isolated areas
- locating recreational amenities, such as skate parks, hard courts and playgrounds in positions of maximum passive surveillance, preferably close to the street. This will minimise opportunities for illegal activity such as vandalism and graffiti.



Path networks should have space for cyclists and pedestrians. They should be well lit, include wayfinding signage and have a buffer of planting from the road way.

## Connect Places

**Connect our parks to one another and to the surrounding neighbourhood.**

Develop greenways that connect our parks, streets and esplanade reserves to create a green movement network across Auckland and around the coast. Create or improve connections with surrounding transport networks, community facilities and local businesses. Use wayfinding signage to help people find their way.

### Connect with the wider context

Design parks with knowledge and understanding of their surroundings, to ensure they fit seamlessly into the wider context of the area. Successful links should respond to the community's needs as this will increase use of the park.

Successfully connect with the wider context by:

- linking to existing and proposed movement networks in the area through the site
- ensuring movement networks follow desire lines and have adequate wayfinding signage
- highlighting views and long range vistas, and planning for their long term protection by planting low-growing vegetation
- understanding the surrounding open space, ecological corridors and greenways which could be connected to





## Long Bay Regional Park

Signage along the road provides helpful wayfinding information for walkers, cyclists and motorists, connecting them to activities, facilities and walkways.

# Connect The Environment

## Identify and understand the surrounding landscape and wider ecological systems.

Make ecosystems more resilient by using vegetation to create connections and corridors between parks and wider networks. Protect and enhance viewpoints and significant natural features. Ensure that movement networks through the natural environment respect the existing terrain, flora and fauna, heritage and cultural values.

## Celebrate important views

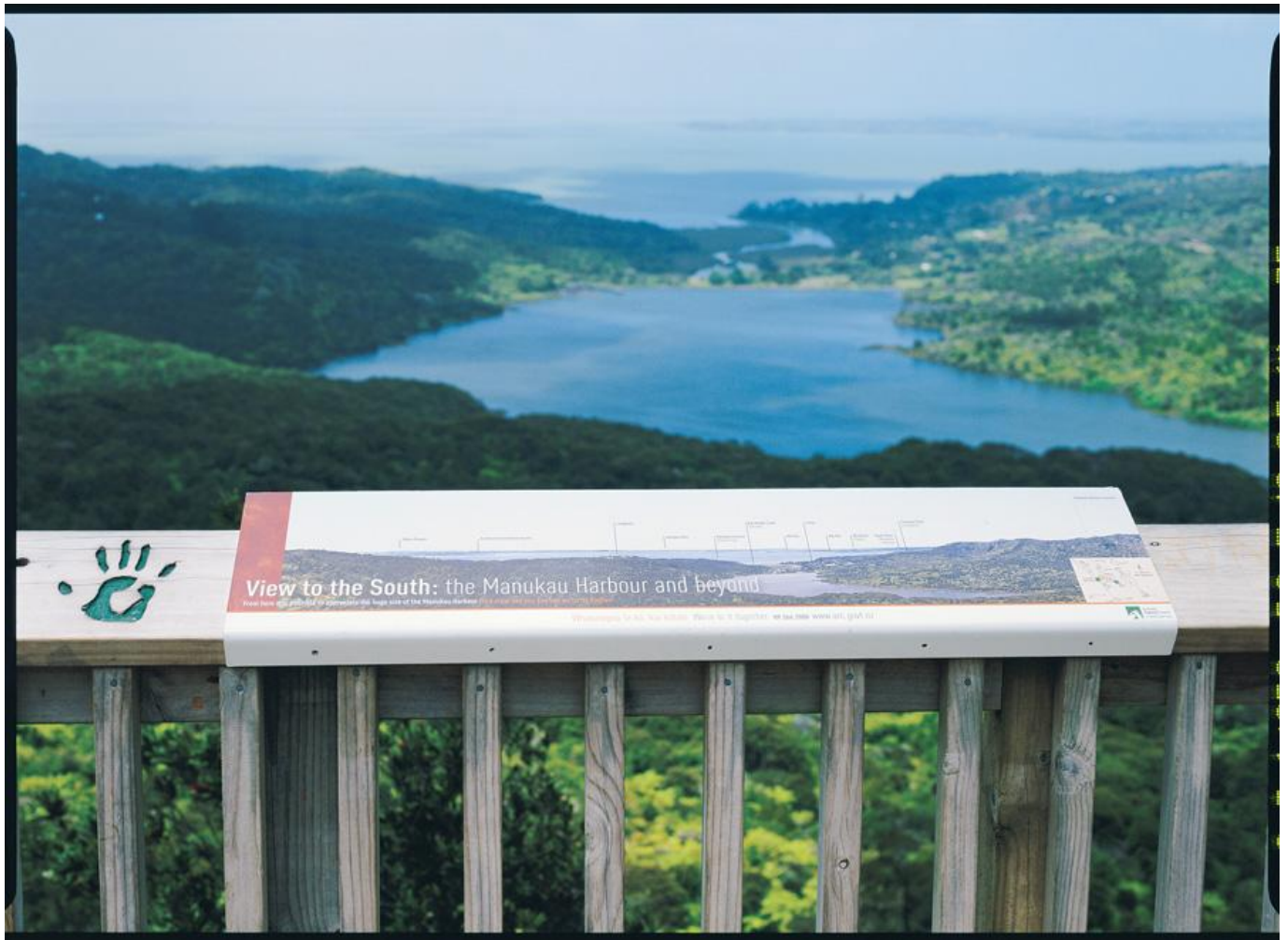
Views to particular landscape features or buildings help orientate us, and important views provide a sense of place and neighbourhood identity. In Auckland, many of these views involve volcanic cones or the harbours. Views allow us to visually escape from our immediate surroundings and can promote a sense of openness and connectivity. Locations with views can also be great places to rest and relax.

Celebrate important views by:

- identifying important views to be retained, restored or celebrated
- protecting and maximising views to and from significant points or landmark features by:
- avoiding obstruction by trees and shrubs as they mature



- drawing attention to these view shafts with features such as seating, viewing platforms or other appropriate amenities
- identifying any long range vistas which could be enjoyed from within the sites



Orientation signage showing a section of the landscape that can be seen from a lookout. Incorporating signage helps people to know where they are and learn about their surroundings.



Mt Wellington, as seen from Stonefields

Views to volcanic cones around Auckland are important to celebrate and preserve in our parks and open spaces.