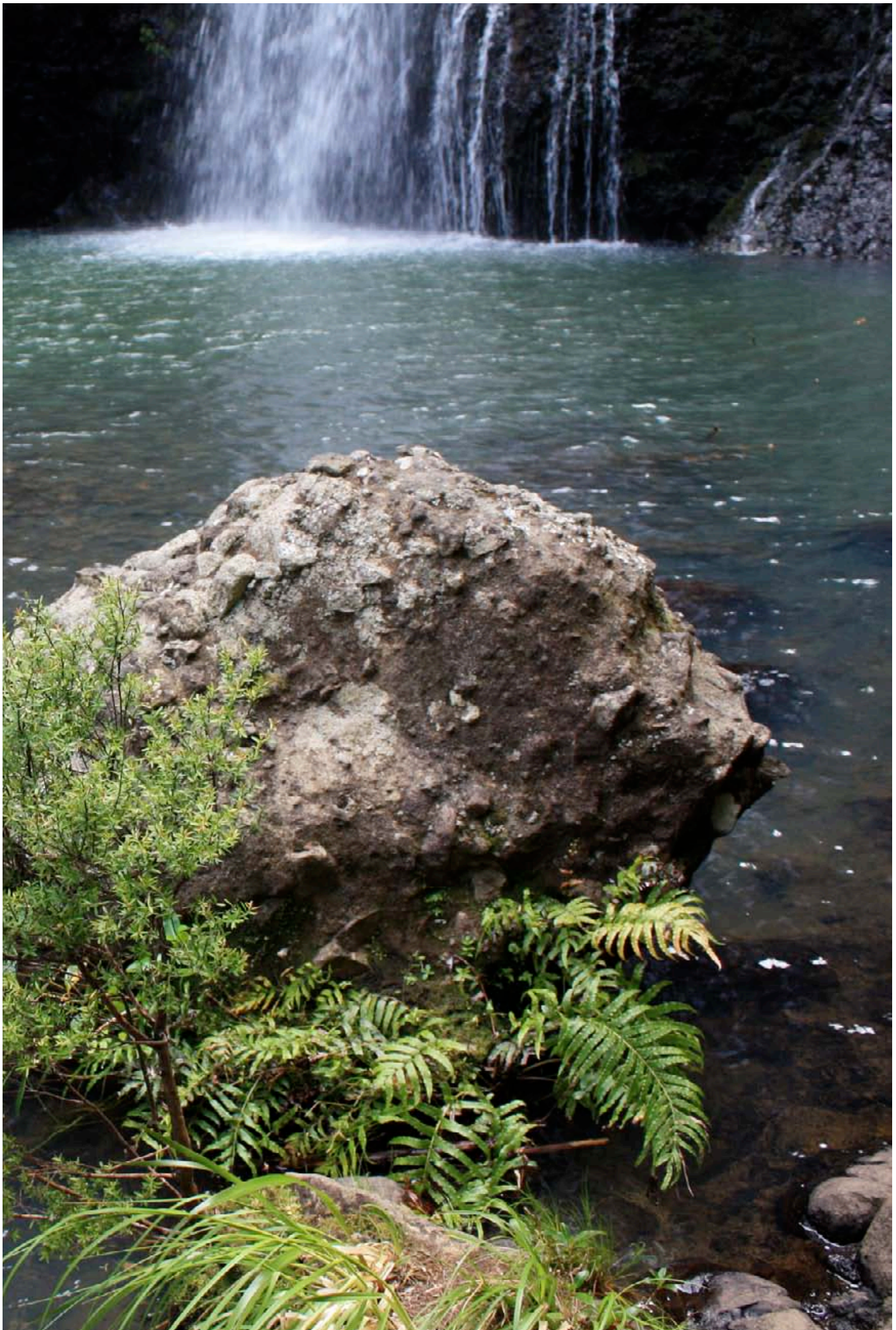


A close-up photograph of a plant with several large, green, lobed leaves. The leaves have prominent veins and some show signs of being eaten, with small holes and irregular edges. The background is a dense thicket of similar foliage. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text '1.0 OVERVIEW' in a white, sans-serif font. The '1.0' is enclosed in a white square box.

1.0 OVERVIEW





1.1 PURPOSE

- To ensure development will respect and enhance the natural, cultural and historical values of the Piha area open space environment.
- To provide innovative, best-practice guidelines that engage and direct those involved in the design, development and future direction of the park.

The Design Guidelines Provide:

a] A Decision Making Approach

These guidelines are designed to assist ARC park rangers and agents employed to undertake development and maintenance at Piha, to ensure the Piha open space environment is always considered.

b] Best Practice Techniques

The guidelines encourage new designs to blend with or complement the natural landscape, be specific to the park and its character and maintain existing assets to appear natural. The design Guidelines encourage the use of CPTED principles.

c] Quality Design

The document should help ARC Park Rangers protect and add value to the park and retain a high design standard that is suitable for the particular climate and environmental conditions at Piha.

d] Environmental Objectives

Regional Parks are places where people can enjoy relatively 'untouched' natural settings. They are about informal recreation in large natural settings that offer respite from the stresses of everyday life. The overall objective is to ensure these qualities are conserved and enhanced while continuing to provide for the well-being of the visitors and residents of Piha.

e] Problem Solving

The process of improving and enhancing park infrastructure and green assets on the park must be recognised as one that requires problem-solving. Park infrastructure is site-specific and therefore requires a thorough background knowledge of information, user-needs and operational requirements, as well as advice from other staff, agencies, contractors and visitors.

f] Advice for Overcoming the Effects of Increased Use

A steady increase in the popularity of the park has increased foot and vehicle traffic and is placing pressure on some areas. The design guidelines will help to define good design for high-use areas.

g] A Checklist Approach

The design guidelines are designed to act as a checklist rather than a specification. This ensures the environmental context of a proposed development is considered before the final proposal is made.

h] A Working Document

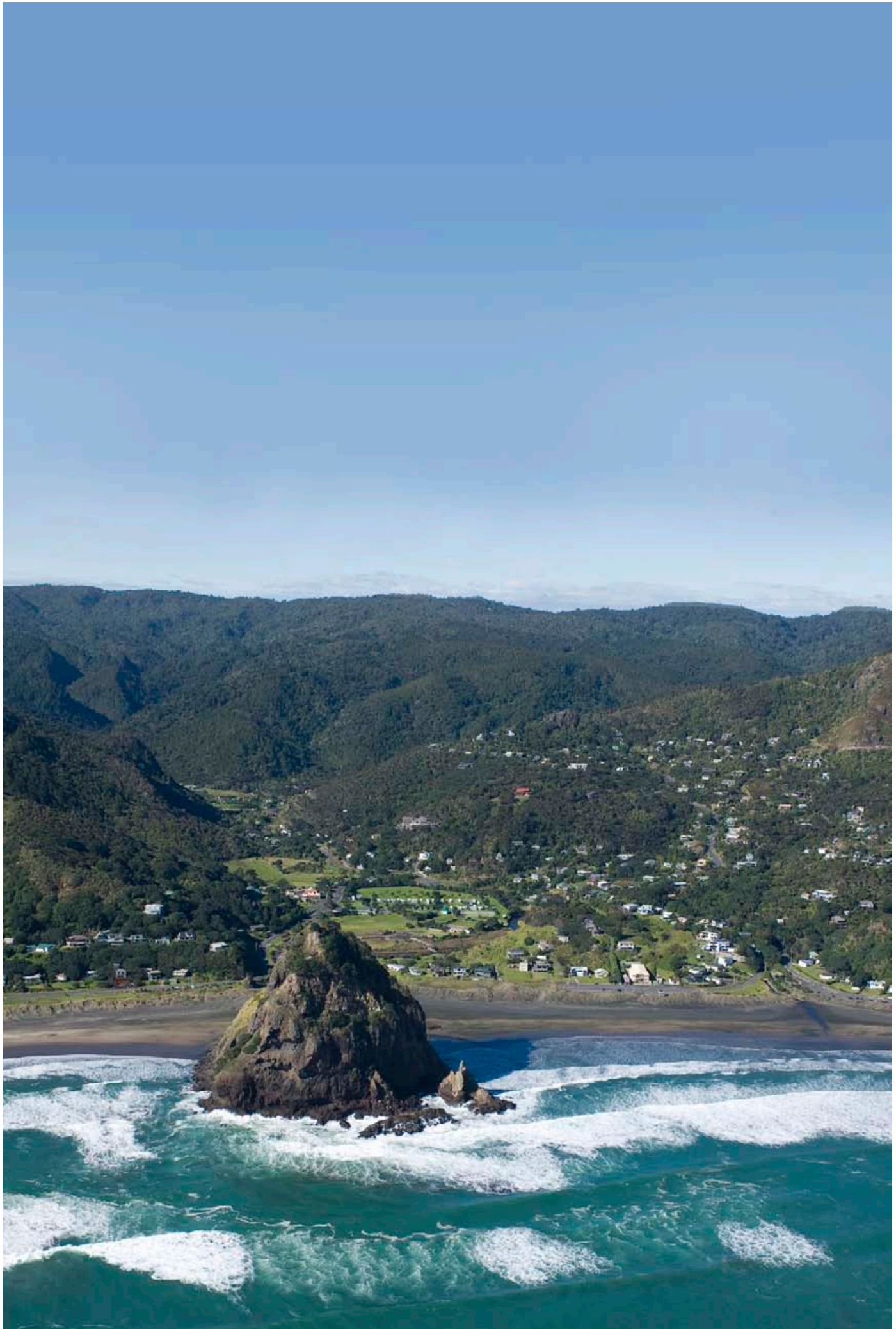
To remain relevant within a changing environment, these guidelines aim to be a living document. To enable this, photographic records of works completed, innovative design and construction techniques can be filed in the sleeve provided at the end of this document.

i] A Case Study of Good Design

By providing positive case studies of best practice infrastructure design in the Piha area (and incentives to use the guidelines to do so) this may have a lead on effect that encourages the upgrade of assets that are under management of public or private owners other than just the Auckland Regional Council.¹

1. "When a truly inappropriate style of architecture already exists in a park in which new work is contemplated, it is urged that the new buildings (or other structures) do not stubbornly carry on the old tradition. The best judgement available should be consulted to determine the style most appropriate to the area, and this then frankly and courageously launched. If the new style is a more appropriate one, it will prevail. Time will eliminate the earlier, inappropriately styled buildings (or other structures) for the ...contrasts they produce."

– United States Department of the Interior and National Parks Service (1938) *Park and Recreation Structures*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York



1.2 HOW TO USE

The Piha Area Design Guidelines are formatted to reflect the steps that should be taken by ARC officers and other design professionals when proposing works on regional parkland. These include:

Understand the overriding policy of regional parks:

PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN SECTION 28.0 - Landscape

28.1 - Quality and Diversity

To protect and enhance the intrinsic natural landscape values of regional parks



Understand the purpose of the design guidelines and the role of stakeholders:

1.0 THE OVERVIEW



Develop an understanding of the natural and cultural values of the Piha area:

2.0 THE ESSENCE



Identify the proposed location, undertake site analysis and propose an initial design with reference to the relevant design guideline section(s):

3.0 DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

3.2



BUILDINGS

3.3



ROADS

3.4



TRACKS

3.5



SIGNS/
NOTICEBOARDS

3.6



BARRIERS/
FENCES

3.7



TABLES/
SEATING

3.8



FLORA/
GREEN
ASSETS



Analyse the proposed design against the relevant design guideline section(s) and any other factors:

4.0 OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER



5.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS



Design accordingly



1.3 ROLE OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Role of Auckland Regional Council, Waitakere City Council, Piha Community and Tangata Whenua

AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Waitakere Ranges Regional park land is owned and managed by ARC. Piha is part of this larger park. The regional park network is part of a spectrum of public open spaces across the Auckland region that serve a range of recreational, ecological and amenity purposes. One end of the spectrum comprises open space provided and managed by territorial local authorities for local community and sub-regional needs including sporting facilities and local parks and reserves. At the other end of the spectrum are nationally significant open spaces owned by the crown and managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Regional parks sit in the middle of this spectrum. They embody the region's unique physical, ecological and historical characteristics that are of national significance, and provide for the recreational, cultural and social needs of the regional population. Regional parks are held in perpetuity for the purpose of protecting and preserving their intrinsic values and for the enjoyment and use of current and future generations (refer to diagram on facing page).

HISTORY OF ARC WAITAKERE PARKLAND:

(Excerpt from the Piha history website <http://www.piha.co.nz>)

'In 1894 Sir Algernon Thomas, the first professor of geology and botany at Auckland University and a great advocate of preserving the Waitakeres as a bush reserve, led a deputation to the Auckland City Council, asking it to persuade the Government to set aside 3,500 acres in the Nihotupu area. The Government heeded the request and in 1895 vested the 3500 acres, and several smaller areas of Waitakere Ranges land, in the City Council as "reserves for the conservation of native flora and fauna."

Gifted land, purchases and vestings which had been made up to that time for conservation purposes, though

of large blocks, were scattered around the perimeter of the Ranges. There was no unified vision. In 1941,

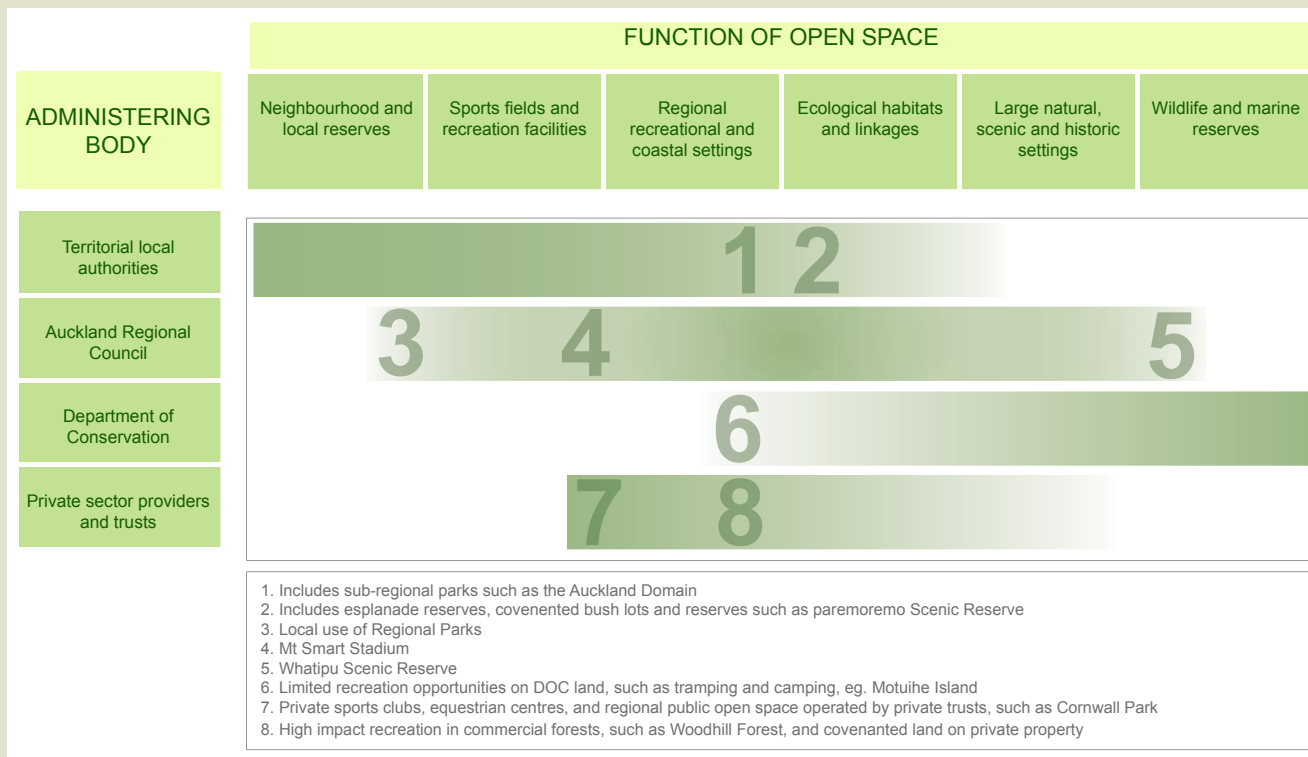
metropolitan local bodies set up the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park Board, which was empowered to create a great "scenic park" in the Waitakere Ranges. It acquired land by gift, by purchase, and by the transfer of some small Crown reserves. Notable among the gifts were those made by Mr Earle Vaile (270 hectares), Sir William Goodfellow (71 hectares with a house) and the estate of Sir Algernon Thomas (42 hectares). By 1964, there was over 5200 hectares of Centennial Memorial Park land in addition to the Waitakere Ranges parkland administered by the Auckland City Council.

In 1964 administration of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park and of the Waitakere Ranges water catchment land was taken over by the newly created Auckland Regional Authority, which continued to enlarge the Centennial Memorial Park. In 1983, the City Council transferred the responsibility for its Waitakere Ranges parks to the Regional Authority. The Regional Authority became the Regional Council in 1989, with responsibility for both the Waitakere Ranges Parkland and the Waitakere Ranges water catchment land. By a statute passed in 1992, the water catchment land was declared to be regional parkland, subject to the operations of Watercare Services Ltd, which provides the regions bulk water supply. By 1992 there were 8600 hectares of Waitakere Ranges land held as water catchment land. The Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland now contains over 17,000 hectares.

HISTORY OF ARC PIHA PARKLAND:

Lion Rock passed from Maori ownership to Norman Russell Withiel Thomas and Acland Withiel Thomas in 1941. At the same time the Thomas family gave to the Auckland City Council 100 acres of bush on the northern side of the Piha Valley running up to the ridge, as well as three acres of flat land on the north

Open Space Spectrum:



side of the Piha Stream This all later became part of the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park and hence was transferred to the ARC. The land had belonged to Sir Algernon Thomas. In 1963 the Thomas family gifted the Lion Rock land to the ARC. ARC then secured the purchase Piha Mill Camp (Stedfast Park) in August 2007 from the Piha Boys' Brigade Northern Regional Trust.

ARC PARK RANGERS

It is expected Park Rangers will be the most regular user-group of this document through implementing new park infrastructure and green assets on regional park land at Piha. Their contribution to the usability, readability and accessibility of the Piha Design Guidelines is vital to ensure its success.

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL

Twenty four Piha reserves are managed by WCC and include a mixture of recreation reserves, scenic reserves, plantation reserves, accessways, and formed and unformed road. Waitakere City Council also provide services such as waste collection, road maintenance and hold a regulatory role as a consenting agency.

PIHA COMMUNITY

The Piha community plays an important role in defining the values and character of the Piha area. Comments, suggestions and design ideas from the community have been incorporated into the document from an open day held on 27 March 2010. ARC has provided informative presentations to the Piha Ratepayers and Residents Association throughout the process of developing these design guidelines.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PIHA AREA TO LOCAL IWI

The iwi Te Kawerau a Maki hold strong cultural and historical connections to Piha. Iwi play an important role in ensuring the spiritual, archaeological and cultural heritage of the Piha area is a key driver in the design guidelines. (Refer to Section 4.5 for further information)

1.3 HISTORY OF THE PIHA AREA

MAORI

Te Kawerau a Maki are the iwi or Maori tribe of the West Coast. Historically, large areas were cleared of forest along the coast so that Te Kawerau settlements could be better defended.

There were a number of Kawerau pa (fortified village) sites on the headlands and midden sites, terraces, pits, rock and cave shelters are evident across the Piha area. Maungaroa was the main pa on the ridge behind Seaview Road, Lion Rock the site of Whakaari pa, and Te Wahangu was on the headland at the north end of the beach. The hill to the south of The Gap was traditionally used by Te Kawerau a Maki fishing parties.

The large number of sites indicate that Piha was, at different times, home to large numbers of Maori. Although there are a number of reports of Maori occupation of Piha from the 1870s until the 1890s, this seems to have come to an end around the turn of the century. Today, Te Kawerau a Maki descendants regard themselves as holding 'mana whenua' or 'traditional ownership' of their Waitakere domains. They still own Taitomo Island (Camel Rock). Lion Rock is now owned by the ARC.

EARLY FARMING

The Piha area was bought from the Maori in 1854 and allocated in crown grants to settlers. Two reserves were retained by Maori at Piha and Weketahi (North Piha). In 1886, Dr William Stockwell bought both blocks having previously leased them from the Maori owners. His primary interest was the kauri timber although he never managed to cut it because of difficulty in getting it out.

CAMPING

From the late nineteenth century, Piha was also a popular holiday destination for campers and in the 1890s paid accommodation became available at the Usshers' farm and at Blowhole Bay (The Gap).



MILLING

In 1910 an entrepreneurial Canadian with a flourishing dental practice in Auckland took over Piha to mill the kauri timber. Fred Rayner and his wife, Ethel, an American meat heiress, built the Piha Mill. Men scoured the steep hillsides for trees which were felled and brought down to the mill with bullock teams and a series of timber dams. To access trees further afield, a railway line was built into valleys to the north, from where the logs were brought along a line on North Piha Beach to the mill in the engine A196. From Piha the timber was taken by hauler to neighbouring Karekare then by a rail line along the coast to the wharf at Whatipu. The mill closed in 1921 when all the timber had been cut out. There are still remnants of the milling throughout the hills behind Piha, such as the Black Rock Dam. Many of these remnants are accessible by walking tracks.

SURF LIFE SAVING

The Piha Surf life saving club was established in January 1934 and was the first surf club on the West Coast. Today it performs the most rescues of any surf club in New Zealand and has achieved further recognition through the popular television programme 'Piha Rescue'.



SURFING

When two US lifeguards turned up at Piha in 1958 they created a sensation. Piha surf club members were impressed by the possibilities of Malibu board riding. Piha is now a popular surfing destination. Good swells come from the south-west and the best wind from the east. The waves peel along a sandbar and surfers can often get long rides all the way into the centre of the beach.



Photos left to right:

Cars, caravans and tents in Piha Campground December 1947 (COURTESY WHITES AVIATION ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY); Overlooking Piha - circa 1917 (COURTESY ALBERT PERCY GODBER PHOTOGRAPHS, ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY); Overlooking Piha - January 2005 (COURTESY AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL PHOTOLIBRARY); Piha Surf Life Saving Club (COURTESY PIHA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB); Tram line used for transportation - circa 1915 APG-0665-1/2-G (COURTESY ALBERT PERCY GODBER PHOTOGRAPHS, ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY); Kauri Boom at Piha - circa 1915 APG-0825-1/2-G

