



Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Management Plan

The Auckland Regional Council - Regional Parks and Recreation Committee adopted this plan on 30 August 2001.

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Part I: Introduction

1.0 Vision for the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens

“A spectacular South Pacific Botanic Garden that is widely recognised for its outstanding plant collections, Auckland regional identity and the interest inspired in the community”.

“He maara whakamiharo no teenei pito o te Moana-nui-a-Kiwi moohiotia whaanuitia nei i te huhua o ngaa tipu e whakatauiria ana i te mata o te Whenua nei, e whakaawe hoki ana i te hunga whakatau.”

2.0 Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this Management Plan (Plan) is to provide direction and guidance for the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) to manage the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens (ARBG) over the next 5 years. This Plan identifies broad goals, objectives and policies that give guidance to the development, operation, management and public use of ARBG.

This Plan relates to the ARBG only. The Plan does not apply to any other regional park. These parks are covered by separate management plans.

3.0 Structure of this Plan

This Plan is divided into three parts as follows:

Part I: Auckland Regional Council background, including the role of the ARC and the role of the ARBG. This section provides a background to ARBG and details the overall management focus and role.

Part II: Auckland Regional Botanic Garden: Goals, Objectives and Policies for: plant collections, recreation, education, conservation and environmental values, science and relationships. This section details the goals with objectives and policies for managing these functions at the ARBG.

Part III: Monitoring and Review discusses how this Plan will be monitored and reviewed (if necessary) to ensure that it remains relevant.

Fig 1 (following page). Map of Regional Park network including Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens.

4.0 The Planning Process

4.1 Local Government Act 1974

The Local Government Act 1974 requires park management plans to be prepared for all parks (Section 619 D) including ARBG. The purpose of a management plan as outlined in Section 619 E of the Local Government Act 1974 is to:

“...provide for and ensure that the public is allowed the use, enjoyment and benefit of the park to which it relates, and of any foreshore or water area adjoining it which is not used for water supply purposes, in a manner and to an extent that is consistent with the conservation and protection of the intrinsic worth of the park.”

This Plan replaces the May 1995 management plan for the ARBG

This Plan will be reviewed every five years in terms of Section 619 (I) of the Local Government Act 1974 (Refer Appendix C). During the review period the public will be invited to make any submissions on the draft plan.

The Plan may be amended or changed at any time to adapt to changing or new circumstances. Such changes will be undertaken in terms of Section 619 (I) of the Local Government Act 1974. Any variation to this Plan will be submitted to the ARC Parks and Recreation Committee and publicly notified.

5.0 Role of Auckland Regional Council

The ARC was established in 1989 as recommended by the Local Government Commission, under the Local Government Act 1974. (Prior to 1989, the Auckland Regional Authority (ARA) managed the regional parks network). In common with other regional councils, the ARC has functions and responsibilities for resource management, heritage, biosecurity, water catchment management, harbours, marine pollution, civil defence, transport planning, and strategic planning and policy. Unlike other regional councils, the Auckland and Wellington Regional Councils provide and manage regional parks.

5.1 Environmental Regulatory Role

In accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991), the ARC's environmental role is to manage the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources of the region. The ARC's vision for maintaining a high environmental quality setting is “a healthy sustainable environment that enhances the life of the people of Auckland and provides for future generations.”

5.2 Parks Management Role

The role of the ARC in the planning for, and the provision of, public open space at a regional level can be detailed in the context of:

- sustainable management of the natural and cultural features of the region as a whole;
- providing for a range of recreation opportunities in open space settings; and
- meeting regional recreational needs.

The Local Government Act 1974 allows the ARC to purchase land for regional park purposes. The land may be purchased and held in perpetuity in order to protect and preserve natural, cultural or other special features or values, and/or recreational significance or potential, for their intrinsic worth or for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the people of the region. (Refer to Appendix C) The primary role of regional parks, in terms of the Local Government Act 1974, is to serve the regional community.

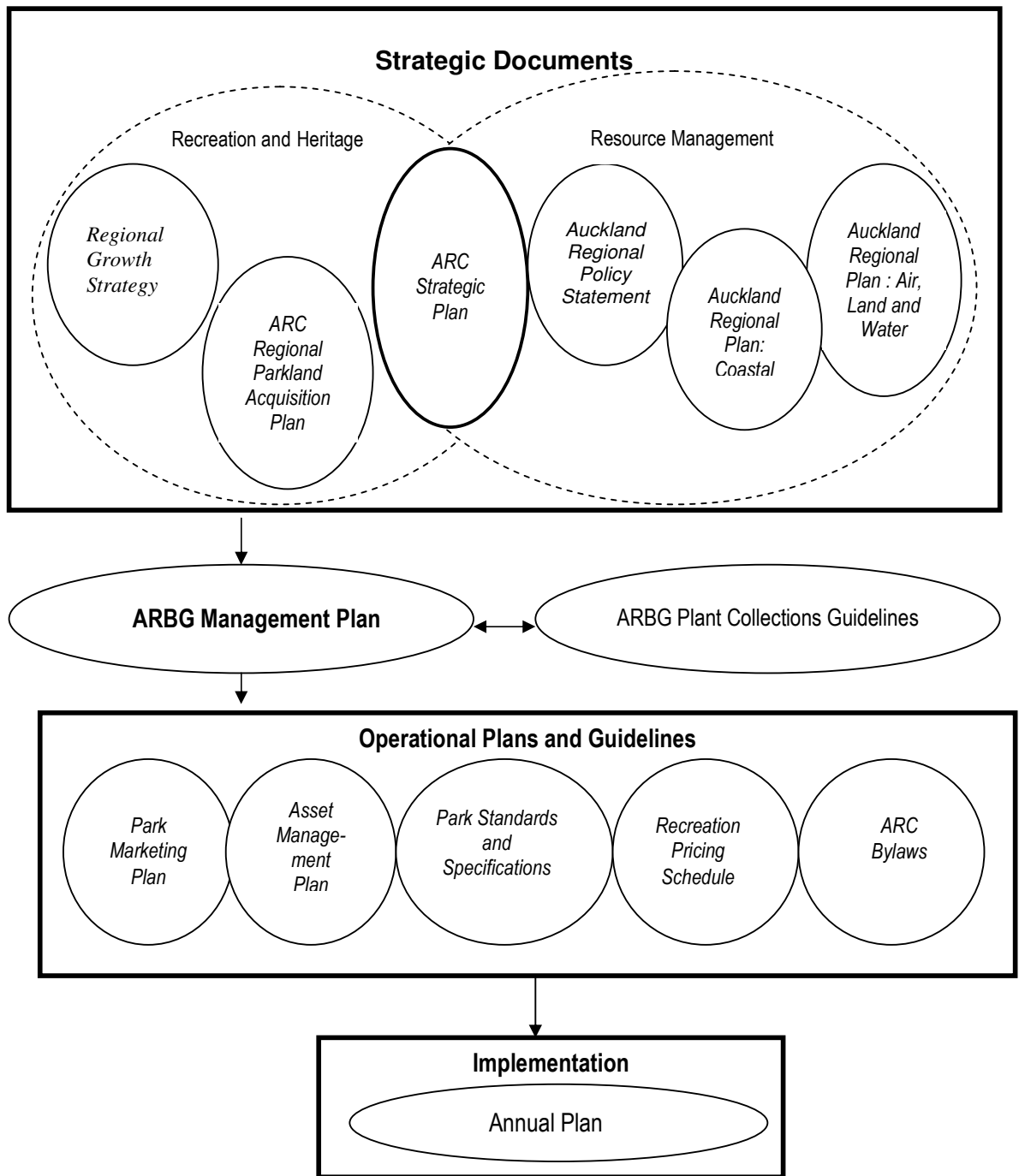
The ARC has a responsibility for an extensive regional parks network in the Auckland region comprising of over 37,500 ha of land that contains some of Auckland's most spectacular coastal locations and bush settings. The ARC's park management role includes the operation, conservation, policy direction, appropriate community use and development of a diverse regional parks system, including Mt Smart Domain (known as Ericsson Stadium) and the ARBG at Manurewa.

6.0 Strategic Direction

The ARC's Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Plan detail strategic direction, as do any other statutory plans prepared under the RMA, 1991. The ARBG Management Plan is a statutory park management plan, prepared under the Local Government Act 1974. Other non-statutory strategies and plans elaborate on the ARC's Strategic Plan and provide an administrative context to the ARBG Management Plan.

The ARC Strategic Plan identifies the key outcomes for the ARBG in the Annual Plan section.

Figure 2. ARC Parks and Recreation Planning Framework



7.0 Role of Botanic Gardens

Botanic gardens worldwide face a fascinating dilemma posed by conservation imperatives, everyday gardening interests, and an increasing need to generate revenue to support their many functions. Modern plant collections provide a connection between people and their environment, inspiring interest in plants and ecosystems.

Traditionally botanic gardens have provided for the study and identification of plants, with the earliest gardens being used for the provision of food, fibre and subsequently medicine in the form of herbs. From the late 18th and through the 19th Century, a mix of botanical curiosity and economic exploration saw European botanic gardens import plants from their colonies for introduction and display. Public interest in gardening then created successive fashions, a trend still powerful today.

Modern botanic gardens collect, display and care for plants in a way the Victorians – such enthusiastic collectors – would hardly recognise. The old idea of arranging plants rather in the manner of a ‘stamp collection’ has largely fallen from favour.

Modern botanic gardens increasingly base the composition of their plant collections on achieving a range of goals in conservation, education, science and recreation. The plant collection goals are predominant and provide the major link between all these areas.

While an essential feature of botanic gardens is the feature of “living collections” many have an associated herbarium and library for reference and identification purposes. As with many botanic gardens the ARBG have evolved their priorities by placing emphasis on ornamental plants, native plants and their habitats, and work on conservation and education programmes.

In recent years there has been a re-evaluation of the role and function of ARBG, to recognise the worldwide contemporary priorities of today’s botanic gardens. For ARBG this now includes:

- Continuing to place a high priority on obtaining, displaying and evaluating ornamental plants for Auckland conditions;
- Collecting plants of ecological, scientific and aesthetic interest;
- Scientific and horticultural research into plants that are, or need to be, in an ARBG collection;
- Conservation of species and ecosystems which are under threat and raising public awareness of this role;
- Opportunities for public involvement;
- Education of the public;
- Provision of passive recreation activities;
- Being advocates for the environment and sustainability;
- Providing information to the public, the education sector and horticultural trainees;
- Managing and resourcing ARBG collections, maintenance, research, conservation and education programmes; and
- Plant breeding.

7.1 History of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens

In May 1967 the ARA purchased 42 hectares (104 acres) of land in Manurewa for the express purpose of creating a regional botanic garden. This was the culmination of proposals for a botanic garden dating back to 1926 when sites in Auckland were investigated for just such a purpose

In 1972 Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) were planted in the lawn near the main entrance, and *Acmena smithii* was planted as a boundary hedge along Hill Rd. In the same year the first plantings were made in the Auckland Border, with greater numbers planted in 1976.

The carpark garden was first planted in 1976, and conifers were planted in trial beds for assessment. Plantings commenced in 1976 on the Native Plant Collection.

When ARBG opened to the public on 23 February 1982, the conifers had been transplanted to their present site. The Herb Garden was well established, Home Garden Trees planted, the Southern African Collection was relatively new, as was the Landscape Border into which a *Jacaranda mimosifolia* and *Paulownia tomentosa* were planted as part of the official opening ceremony. Bedding plants featured in the Formal Garden, with the original Rose Garden nearby.

In 1982 the ARA purchased an additional 20.5 hectares of land from Manukau City Council (MCC), and was gifted a further 2.2 hectares by MCC to provide a northern frontage off Orams Rd. The ARBG now covers some 64 hectares of land.

History of Area

The ARBG contain one registered historic site, a flourmill established in 1855 and scheduled in the 2nd Reviewed District Scheme of Manukau City. The site is adjacent to a tributary of the Puhinui Stream running through the Palm Collection (refer to Map 1). The water wheel has been restored and is now on display at the Howick Colonial Village.

Towards the north-eastern boundary there are a few remnant concrete floors of buildings erected by US military forces stationed here in 1942-1944 (refer to Map 1). They are visible from the monument erected on the edge of the Rose Display Trial Garden in 1992 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of this stay. This monument was unveiled on 18 June 1992.

Key Dates

- 1960s: Sites at Tamaki, Cornwall Park and Cascades Park were investigated as potential botanic garden locations.
- 1963: ARA was formed.
- 1964: ARA embarked on a Regional Parks acquisition programme. The ARA was approached on behalf of several organisations with a proposal to consider 200 acres (80 hectares) of the Nathan Estate at Manurewa as a possible site for the botanic gardens. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) investigated the site and reported that it was eminently suitable for the botanic gardens.

- 1966: In March 1966, the Auckland Horticultural Council and the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture jointly asked the ARA to purchase the Manurewa site before it is subdivided.
- 1967: In May 1967, the ARA agreed to purchase 42 hectares (104 acres) at a cost of \$200,000. Manukau City Council (MCC) agreed to purchase adjoining 40 hectares.
- 1972: The first master plan for the Gardens was prepared in consultation with a community scientific advisory committee, and adopted by the ARA in March 1972.
- 1973: 19 February 1973, ARA chairman Mr Tom Pearce turned the first sod at the new site.
- 1975: First plantings were made in Auckland Border, and trees and hedges planted nearby.
- 1982: ARA purchased further 20.5 hectares from MCC at a cost of \$725,000, and accepted from MCC a gift of a further 2.2 hectares to provide a northern frontage off Orams Road.
- 1982: 23 February 1982, the Governor General Sir David Beattie officially opened the ARBG to the public. Visitor numbers in the first year were 98,000.
- 1983: Classroom donated by Ministry of Education, the Logan Campbell Lecture Building was opened, Pergola in Formal Garden constructed, flagpole erected, footbridges across stream in Spring Blossom Valley installed, and Soroptimist Shelter built.
- 1986: Carrington (Unitec) Horticultural Classroom arrived.
- 1987: Kiosk constructed.
- 1989: ARC formed.
- 1989: Recommendations contained in the Working Party Review report (excluding recommendation 44) adopted by Regional Parks Committee. The committee resolved to support the progressive development of the Gardens to a full cultural facility in the role of a regional botanic gardens.
- 1992: Friends Horticultural Reference Library was opened, Hugh Redgrove Memorial Arbour dedicated.
- 1995: 25 May 1995, Management Plan adopted by Regional Parks Committee. Subsequently a Supplementary Plan containing plans and proposals for future developments was produced but not adopted.
- 1997: June 1997, a Working Party was established to produce a Development Plan. In February 1998 recommendations were presented to Parks Committee, and the report was received.
- 2000: Draft Plant Collections Guidelines compiled by staff.
- 2001: 30 August 2001, Management Plan adopted by Parks and Recreation Committee.

Part II: ARBG Goals, Objectives and Policies

8.0 Plant Collections

Introduction

All components of the ARBG; recreation, education, conservation and science are intermeshed and closely linked with one common thread – plant collections. Without the plant collections the ARBG would be merely a pleasant setting. Every collection tells a story, with an aim of stimulating visitor understanding and appreciation of plants and the environment.

Plant collections are the core product of botanic gardens, and it is through them that stated objectives in recreation, education, conservation and science can be achieved, e.g. stimulating interest in gardening, increasing understanding and appreciation of plants and the environment, fostering visitors desire to implement what they have learnt.

The main criteria for choosing plants for ARBG collections are that they must be suitable for cultivation in Auckland and/or have special significance for the region. Their conservation value, research and breeding values are also important, as well as the contribution they make to existing collections. All plant collections have guidelines that are detailed in the Plant Collections Guidelines document, which identifies each collection's existence and management.

Not all ARBG plants are grown for their ornamental value. Many support ARBG roles in education and plant conservation; with native plants comprising the most significant collection. Breeding and plant trials remain a significant effort, for both display purposes and to evaluate suitability for the region.

The ARBG have made a large contribution to horticulture, particularly in the propagation and cultivation of plant species suitable for the Auckland region

Plant Collections Goals

To provide attractive and informative display of plants and associations suitable for the Auckland Region managed with environmentally sustainable practices.

To conserve, undertake research and promote awareness, of native plant species.

This part of the Plan details how the ARBG propose to manage the plant collections.

Section 8.1 identifies how the plant collections will be managed, with particular reference to the Plant Collections Guidelines.

Section 8.2 details the creating of new collections and the required steps in this process.

Section 8.3 describes the process of accessions – acquiring plants for collections.

Section 8.4 describes de-accessioning which is the removal of plant species.

Section 8.5 identifies the procedures for the collection of New Zealand native plant material from the wild.

Section 8.6 specifies the transfer of plant material, including national and international transfers.

Section 8.7 details plant breeding and the involvement of ARBG in this activity.

8.1 Managing the Plant Collections

Objectives

8.1.1.1 To display a range of plants that have a conservation, scientific or educational focus.

8.1.1.2 To achieve high plant health primarily through sound horticultural practice such as plant selection, plant spacing and appropriate cultivation.

Explanations

Objective 8.1.1.1: The Plant Collections Guidelines detail the implicit management and sound horticultural practices adopted for each plant collection.

Objective 8.1.1.2 The adoption of sound horticultural practices in terms of planting distances, companion planting, balanced nutrition, pruning etc, is important in order to lessen the impact of weeds, pests and diseases. These practices allow ARBG to trial a range of environmental initiatives and practices, and in doing so to educate and inform ARBG visitors and the wider community of sound environmental practices.

Policies

8.1.1.3 The Plant Collections Guidelines will be reviewed as required by ARBG key staff and other invited specialists, and recommended changes will be presented to the ARC Parks and Recreation Committee.

8.1.1.4 All plant collections will be managed in accordance with the Plant Collections Guidelines.

8.1.1.5 Sustainable environmental practices will be undertaken where possible to promote a range of alternatives to chemical control methods. These alternatives are as follows:
(a) Where practical, non-chemical methods of weed control will be undertaken.
(b) Where pests and diseases cannot be controlled using non-chemical methods, conventional pesticides will be used if appropriate.

8.1.1.6 All plants will be grown in an environment where planting distances, balanced nutrition, pruning and cultivation are undertaken to promote a healthy environment, and education of the visitor.

8.1.1.7 Collections that will be significantly re- developed are:
(a) Rose Garden (refer to Section 8.1.2)

Explanation

Policy 8.1.1.4: The Plant Collections Guidelines document was originally written by ARBG staff and reviewed by key stakeholders in 2000 to form a working field document. Expert panels that include representatives from various horticultural fields

will as required review the Plant Collections Guidelines. When referring to the Plant Collection Guidelines, the reader should seek out the currently up-dated document.

8.1.2. Rose Garden

Objectives

- 8.1.2.1 To be a spectacular visual display that is the premier rose destination for gardeners of the region.
- 8.1.2.2 To allow visitors to make their own assessment of roses based on their physical condition and general appearance.
- 8.1.2.3 To trial the suitability of rose cultivars for growing in Auckland conditions,
- 8.1.2.4 To display various plant associations with roses.

Policies

- 8.1.2.5 The Rose Garden will be redeveloped to demonstrate to home gardeners a selection of species and cultivars suitable for the region, (refer Map 1).
- 8.1.2.6 Rose trials based on plant performance will be assessed throughout the growing season by a rose evaluation panel.
- 8.1.2.7 A reasonable standard of rose plant health will be maintained, with:
 - (a) spraying restricted to a minimal number of applications; and
 - (b) a preference for chemicals of low toxicity.
- 8.1.2.8 Commercial rose growers will be invited to contribute to any rose trial being undertaken.

Explanations

Policy 8.1.2.5: Redevelopment of the rose garden will show roses been grown in a manner that is achievable by home gardeners and is environmentally sustainable.

Policy 8.2.1.6: Rose trials including new systems for managing rose health will be constantly introduced and evaluated. Rose cultivars will be discarded if considered too disease prone, or if they are regarded as having insufficient ornamental merit. The rose evaluation panel comprises of staff and invited specialists.

Policy 8.1.2.7: Management practices will concentrate on horticultural techniques available to home gardeners that minimise the susceptibility of the roses to pests and disease. Spraying will only be undertaken if all other pest and disease prevention measures have failed.

8.2 Creating New Collections

Objectives

- 8.2.1.1 To ensure that all new plant collections meet criteria described in the current Plant Collections Guidelines.
- 8.2.1.2 To ensure all new plant collections have relevance to the region.

Explanations

Objective 8.2.1.1: The ARBG achieve their objectives in recreation, education, conservation and science through its plant collections. Before a new collection can be developed a series of criteria for the particular collection as detailed in the Plant Collections Guidelines needs to be met.

Objective 8.2.1.2: To complete the transition from a developing garden to a fully recognised Botanic Garden, the development of new collections needs to be undertaken in an integrated way. The development needs to reflect the community's present and future needs, and to display species suitable for cultivation in the Auckland Region and which have special significance for the region.

Policies

- 8.2.1.3 All proposed collections must be consistent with the role of ARBG - specifically they must achieve objectives and have values for science, recreation, education and conservation.
- 8.2.1.4 Formal proposals for the creation of new major collections are to be submitted to an ARBG Curator forum.
- 8.2.1.5 Any major new plant collection will be approved by the ARC Park and Recreation Committee and be part of the annual plan process for resourcing.
- 8.2.1.6 New plant collections that may be developed include:
(a) Gondwana Arboretum; (refer to Section 8.2.2)
(b) Children's Discovery Garden; (refer to Section 8.2.3)
(c) Ethnobotanic Garden; (refer to Section 8.2.4) and
(d) Lifestyle Courtyards, (refer to Section 8.2.5).
- 8.2.1.7 Where trial or private interest plant collections exist, ARBG will
(a) manage these areas with sound horticultural principles; and
(b) seek external funding from the appropriate source where a private good component of a plant collection or service exists.

Explanations

Policy 8.2.1.4: The ARBG curator forum consists of ARBG Plant Collection Curators, may include a the invitation any key stakeholders to assist in considering a new collection proposal

Policy 8.2.1.6: The new plant collections to be developed are detailed in the following Sections 8.2.2 – 8.2.5. A full description of each plant collection is detailed in the ARBG Plant Collections Guidelines. These guidelines, formed by specialist

staff and expert stakeholders, are available for purchase from the ARBG Visitor Centre.

Policy 8.2.1.7: The ARBG are public gardens where the emphasis is on the provision of plant collections appropriate for the Auckland regional community. Where collections of plants are provided by an outside agency for commercial evaluation and trial purposes the commercial benefactors will fund maintenance of these plants.

8.2.2 Gondwana Arboretum

Objectives

- 8.2.2.1 To develop the Gondwana Arboretum as an ARBG collection and major attraction.
- 8.2.2.2 To display plants from the temperate and/or sub-tropical regions of the Southern Hemisphere whose ancestral origins are related to those archaic species that occurred in Gondwana.
- 8.2.2.3 To create a place of discovery and enjoyment for visitors.
- 8.2.2.4 To develop a conservation focus for the Gondwana Arboretum.

Explanations

Objective 8.2.2.1: A feasibility study for a Gondwana Arboretum was undertaken in 1993 and concept designs drawn up that same year. Five years later a project team was established and a vision, primary goals and objectives were formally adopted.

Objective 8.2.2.2: Gondwana was the great prehistoric landmass that separated to form the Southern Hemisphere continents of today.

Policies

- 8.2.2.5 Unique associations of plants derived from Gondwana will be created including wetland communities, trees and other plants in geographic arrangements.
- 8.2.2.6 Objects evocative of Gondwana including sculptural works will be progressively introduced to the Arboretum.
- 8.2.2.7 The Gondwana Arboretum will have a low level of infrastructure development, with the minimum of hard surfaces and structures, (refer Map 1).

Explanation

Policy 8.2.2.5: The main thrust since 1998 has been to source gymnosperms of known provenance from temperate and sub-tropical Southern Hemisphere origins whose ancestral origins are related to those archaic species that occurred in Gondwana. Planting commenced with the Australian component in 1999.

8.2.3 Children's Discovery Garden

Objectives

- 8.2.3.1 To provide all young people with an exciting place to learn about plants and the environment.
- 8.2.3.2 To provide a place where parents and children can share the excitement of learning about plants, or simply relax while their children explore the garden.
- 8.2.3.3 To provide children with a special garden for enjoyment and learning.

Policies

- 8.2.3.4 Provide a garden where children can learn by participation.
- 8.2.3.5 Provide opportunities for the delivery of school programmes including Kohanga reo / Kura kaupapa.

8.2.4 Ethnobotanic Garden

Objectives

- 8.2.4.1 To create an awareness of plants used by Tangata Whenua.
- 8.2.4.2 To explain how traditional plants were used and to promote their contemporary use.
- 8.2.4.3 To ensure traditional cultivars of historical economic significance are conserved.

Policies

- 8.2.4.4 Create a garden displaying plants of cultural significance to Maori. Traditional settings will be investigated and where practical developed.
- 8.2.4.5 The project will progress as a partnership with Tangata Whenua who will be consulted throughout the planning process.
- 8.2.4.6 Support the development of a larger ethnobotanic garden in an appropriate location.

Explanation

Policy 8.2.4.4: The proposal for an Ethnobotanic Garden focusing on traditional Maori plant uses located somewhere in the Auckland region has been suggested sporadically over many years. A small-scale ethnobotanic garden is proposed for the ARBG with a larger ethnobotanic garden envisaged elsewhere in the region that would accurately represent the historical links and plant species of that period.

8.2.5 Lifestyle Courtyards

Objectives

- 8.2.5.1 To provide inspiration for home gardeners and to convey practical planting and hard landscaping ideas.
- 8.2.5.2 To improve the quality of home garden design and plant selection for people of the Auckland region.

- 8.2.5.3 To provide planting solutions for typically difficult situations common around homes.
- 8.2.5.4 To provide a range of ideas and possible solutions for small gardens, such as courtyards.

Policies

- 8.2.5.5 Lifestyle courtyards will be developed to provide planting and design ideas to home gardeners.
- 8.2.5.6 Opportunities will be provided for community and commercial partners to contribute to this project.

8.3 Acquiring New Plants (Accession)

Objective

- 8.3.1.1 To acquire a range of native and exotic plants that have conservation, scientific or educational value, with particular emphasis on plants considered likely to be suited to local/regional growing conditions

Policies

- 8.3.1.2 Subject to other sections of this plan, plant accession will involve:
 - (a) Plants considered likely to be suited to local growing conditions.
 - (b) Plants of high conservation, educational and/or scientific value.
 - (c) Plants for ecological collections will be of known provenance

8.4 Plant Removal (De-accessioning)

Objective

- 8.4.1.1 To remove plant specimens and species that do not meet the relevant Plant Collections Guidelines objectives and policies.

Policies

- 8.4.1.2 Plant species and specimens in ecological collections which are of unknown origin, may be progressively replaced as plants of known provenance become available, except:
 - (a) Where plants have developed into mature specimens; and
 - (b) Where plants have special historical or other significance.
- 8.4.1.3 Where a plant trial has occurred, all cultivars surplus to ARBG requirements may be offered to other parties before destruction unless ARBG are under a legal obligation not to distribute that particular plant. Donors of specific plants are to be given first right of refusal.
- 8.4.1.4 Plants of conservation status may be offered to other institutions.
- 8.4.1.5 Diseased plants or plants which exhibit weed characteristics will be culled.

- 8.4.1.6 Plants that naturalise in plant collections will be monitored and may be de-accessioned where they do not support the relevant Plant Collection Guidelines.
- 8.4.1.7 An ARBG Curator forum comprising of specialists will make any final decision on de-accessioning of plants.

8.5 Collection of New Zealand Native Plant Material from the Wild

Objective

- 8.5.1.1 To conserve, undertake research or promote educational awareness of New Zealand plant species in the wild by propagating and displaying these species.

Explanation

Many plant species found growing in the wild have regionally significant features or variations. For the enhancement of a collection or for conservation or scientific research purposes, the collection of plant material from the wild will be undertaken to promote awareness and understanding.

Policies

- 8.5.1.2 Seeds or cuttings collected from the wild for ecological collections will be of known provenance, and will be accurately recorded with relevant field collection data.
- 8.5.1.3 For the purpose of conservation projects, sampling will endeavour to capture the greatest genetic variation possible for each wild population.
- 8.5.1.4 Native plants for re-vegetation projects will be sourced from the nearest wild population.
- 8.5.1.5 Germplasm will be collected from the wild only when authorisation and documentation is in place – where required, prior consent will be obtained from appropriate authorities, iwi or individual landowners before collection is undertaken.

8.6 Transfer of Plant Material – Nationally and Internationally

Objective

- 8.6.1.1 To ensure that the transfer of plant material overseas meets appropriate protocols and guidelines and that the transfer of plant material within New Zealand is recorded.

Policies

- 8.6.1.2 All national and international protocols and legislation will be followed when:
- transferring plant material overseas;
 - importing germplasm from overseas; and
 - transporting plant material within New Zealand

- 8.6.1.3 Records will be kept of all plant material moved from ARBG, detailing its source / destination, known provenance and any field collection data.

Explanation

Policy 8.6.1.2: Botanic Gardens worldwide share information on plant species, taxonomy and research. Together with other agencies that deal with plant species, botanic gardens seek out new or additional species for their plant collections. All germplasm (plant material) imported into New Zealand is covered by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. The transferring of this material is required to have supporting reference material of its known provenance and comply with any other government regulations. The transfer of plant material within New Zealand between horticultural institutions is also required to have supporting reference material.

8.7 Plant Breeding

Objective

- 8.7.1.1 To produce hybrids well suited to Auckland garden conditions.

Explanation

Many botanic gardens around the world undertake plant breeding programmes as a core activity. Past plant breeding programmes at the ARBG have contributed many cultivars to horticulture in this country and overseas. The ARBG have significant gene pools and staff expertise to form the basis of future plant breeding programmes.

Policies

- 8.7.1.2 Plant breeding programmes will meet commercial outcomes based on agreed ARC business case objectives.
- 8.7.1.3 Plant breeding programmes will meet ARC public good objectives.
- 8.7.1.4 When resourcing and other issues including those relating to the intellectual property rights relating to New Zealand flora are resolved, the ARBG intend to recommence a plant-breeding programme.

9.0 Recreation

Introduction

Gardening remains one of the most popular recreational activities of New Zealanders and providing inspiration and information to home gardeners has always been a fundamental role of the ARBG.

Visitors increasingly are drawn to ARBG by display gardens showing a wide variety of accurately labelled plants suitable for growing in the region, displayed in attractive and innovative ways. Intensifying urban life increases the demand on available open space, and an aim is to ensure that ARBG is responsive to some of these demands without compromising its core functions.

The provision of a range of facilities; (visitor centre, café, walking tracks and public amenities), and services adds to a visitor's enjoyment and experience.

Enjoyment of ARBG and its plantings is, for many, spontaneous and unstructured. At the same time, visitors may undertake a range of active and passive activities that require some form of control to ensure they do not conflict with each other and the enjoyment of visitors.

Recreation Goals

To link people and plants through leisure.

To provide for a range of social and cultural experiences that are appropriate to the settings.

To provide equitable access for people of all abilities to display gardens and services.

To encourage local, regional and national use of ARBG through the provision of facilities and services to cater for visitor's enjoyment and understanding.

To contribute to the health and well being of Auckland's communities.

The following sections of the Plan outline how the ARC proposes to manage recreation and related settings, services and activities at the ARBG.

Section 10 identifies the different settings including zones, the provision of facilities, and new developments proposed for ARBG.

Section 11 details the recreation services that are provided.

Section 12 specifies the management of recreation at ARBG including permitted, controlled, discretionary and prohibited activities.

10.0 Recreational Settings

10.1 ARBG Zones

Objectives

- 10.1.1. To concentrate facilities and infrastructure within the ARBG and focus visitor needs and activities on specific areas.

Explanation

Concentrating facilities and infrastructure is important to ensure that the ARBG are not over-developed and to preserve and enhance the visitor experience. From an operational perspective, concentration promotes efficiencies in terms of provision, servicing and maintenance. For example, it reduces costs associated with electrical connection and water reticulation.

Policies

- 10.1.1.2 A zone classification is used to determine the location and appropriate level of facilities and infrastructure at ARBG. The following zones will form the basis of development at ARBG, (refer Map 2).

(a) Pre-entry / Entry

Pre-entry information located outside of the ARBG indicates that the gardens are nearby and gives directional information. ARBG will liaise with Transit New Zealand with the objective of ensuring the ARBG are adequately signposted.

Entry information should identify the ARBG, and provide:

- a welcoming and safe entry, and
- clear information to the visitor.

(b) Main arrival zone.

This is the primary stopping place and parking zone for the visitor. The purpose of this zone is to provide a muster area where people can be informed and directed to garden destinations and experiences. This area will contain vehicle parking and signage of the ARBG's key features and facilities, including visitor information, public toilets and ARBG concessionaires.

(c) Secondary arrival zone.

These secondary arrival zones provide limited vehicle parking, and information for ARBG visitors on features and facilities throughout the gardens.

(d) Special event zone.

These areas are provided to cater for a range of large activities and events that may occur within the ARBG. The Northern Event Site contains the area used for the Ellerslie Flower Show. The Central Lawn area is another area available for special events.

(e) ARBG Plant Collections.

This area contains the main garden plant collections, with information on each collection, well-graded walking paths and tracks, with facilities limited to public toilets and garden shelters.

(f) Gondwana Arboretum.

Contained in this area is a range of Gondwana plant collections laid out in biogeographical areas. This zone contains large areas of open space (including the Northern Event Site), with minimal facilities and walking tracks.

(g) Native Forest Remnant

This zone contains development limited to walking tracks and bridges, in a native forest setting.

(h) Service Zones

These zones contain ARBG resources including; caretaker residences, staff offices, workshops and plant nursery areas.

10.2 Facilities: Buildings, Structures and Amenities

Objectives

- 10.2.1.1 To provide and maintain a high quality setting in ARBG for the recreational use, benefit and enjoyment of the public of the region.
- 10.2.1.2 To provide levels of infrastructure, buildings and facilities in the ARBG for operational, recreational and educational purposes that:
 - (a) are appropriate to the garden setting; and
 - (b) do not adversely affect the quality of the visitor experiences at ARBG.

Policies

- 10.2.1.3 The following basic recreational facilities at ARBG will be provided and maintained for the visitor:
 - (a) structures, public facilities and amenity areas;
 - (b) tracks, toilets, drinking water;
 - (c) basic information and signage, (e.g. signs, information boards, leaflets, maps).
- 10.2.1.4 The design, location and maintenance of buildings and facilities (including tracks), will be based on the following considerations;
 - (a) the appropriateness of the proposed site compared to possible, alternative sites;
 - (b) an assessment of visitor needs, expectations and opinions;
 - (c) the potential levels of use of the facility or structure under consideration, and the potential consequences for the levels of use of surrounding resources and facilities;
 - (d) the implications for visitor safety;
 - (e) the potential impact on natural and cultivated garden resources;
 - (f) the impact on garden landscapes and landforms;
 - (g) the impact on the functioning and amenity of adjacent facilities;

- (h) the impact on, or benefit for, visitor experience and the provision of recreational opportunities;
- (i) the impact on, or benefit for, visitor accessibility, wherever possible to provide for the needs of people with disabilities;
- (j) the cost of the development, including the long term maintenance and operation; and
- (k) the desirability of using sustainable and environmentally responsible practices and technologies wherever practicable.

10.2.1.5 All buildings and structures will be periodically assessed and redundant facilities and structures will be removed unless they have cultural or historical significance.

10.2.1.6 The following classification system will provide the basis for the provision of paths and walking tracks:

| Classification | Expected Standard | Location |
|----------------|--|--|
| Paths | Consisting of sealed, concrete or compacted gravel, or timber boardwalks. Well signposted with directional signs, and safety signs where required. These paths will be on easy grades, well drained, bridged as required, with safety handrails. | Arrival zone and ARBG Plant Collection zone. |
| Walking tracks | Consisting of compacted gravel or timber boardwalks. Well signposted with directional signage and safety signs where required. These will be on easy to moderate grades and drained with steps and bridges as required. | ARBG Plant Collection, Gondwana Arboretum and Native Forest zones. |

10.2.1.7 A network of tracks will be provided and maintained in ARBG on the following basis;

- (a) loop walking tracks that suit a wide cross-section of garden visitors will be given priority in appropriate locations; and
- (b) new tracks may be developed or existing tracks maintained for multi-purpose use by recreational user groups.

10.3 New Developments

Objective

- 10.3.1.1 To provide a range of new public facilities that are necessary for the ARBG:
- (a) to be a regional community focal centre and destination for the enjoyment and study of plants;
 - (b) to serve as a venue for special functions; and
 - (c) to cater for changing population trends and the requirements of growing visitor numbers.

Policies

- 10.3.1.2 Develop and implement an outline plan in conjunction with the Friends of the ARBG Inc. (the Friends) and other partners, which may include the following key elements:
- (a) a Visitor Centre that may incorporate;
 - information services;
 - botanical, recreational and environmental displays and interpretation;
 - a reference Herbarium and a reading room;
 - café/restaurant;
 - any other compatible commercial activities;
 - offices and staff facilities; and
 - act as a 'gateway' to the Southern Regional Parks.
 - (b) carpark and arrival area to orientate visitors to any new Visitor Centre and the botanic gardens;
 - (c) courtyard incorporating informal recreation, lifestyle gardening and interpretation;
 - (d) overall landscape design and design criteria;
 - (e) auditorium /lecture theatre, (refer to Map 3).
- 10.3.1.3 Develop additional public toilets to meet public requirements in the following areas:
- (a) new Visitor Centre;
 - (b) Northern Event Site; and
 - (c) if required in the vicinity of the eastern entrance, (refer to Map 3).
- 10.3.1.4 Investigate a facility providing all-weather protection for plants and people.
- 10.3.1.5 Create a dynamic and inviting ARBG main access and arrival zone.
- 10.3.1.6 Plan, and when demand requires, construct a new car park containing approximately 100 all-weather spaces adjacent to the Everglade Road frontage.
- 10.3.1.7 Design and build a series of small structures in selected sites around the ARBG to provide shelter and shade from weather elements, orientation and interpretation of adjacent collections. These may be constructed outside the facility development zones.
- 10.3.1.8 The existing plant nursery location will be retained until such time as regional park requirements for revegetation production diminishes. After this time:
- (a) it will be relocated to a smaller, central location; and
 - (b) a new facility developed to provide propagation and growing services to ARBG only, (refer to Map 3).

- 10.3.1.9 Development of an Auckland Regional Threatened Plant Survival Unit including a long-term seed storage facility will be investigated in partnership with other organisations.
- 10.3.1.10 Provision will be made for suitable garden art and sculpture in areas of the ARBG.
- 10.3.1.11 The need for new facilities will be monitored.

Explanations

Background to Policy 10.3.1.2: In June 1997 a Working Party comprising key stakeholders first met to agree on recommendations as to future developments at the ARBG. In February 1998 the findings of this Working Party were reported to the ARC Parks and Recreation Committee.

Development Plan Working Party recommendations were:

- (a) *The development of a new Visitor Centre/conservatory complex dubbed the 'Covered Garden' was identified as a priority. This was intended as a protected facility for plants and people that would assist with interpretation of the ARBG and ARC role, and that would transform the ARBG into a major destination.*
- (b) *Other recommended building developments included a restaurant, lecture building, an education complex including dedicated nursery for students, an un-staffed visitor centre near the northern entrance, and an administration complex. All these facilities were to be developed progressively over many years.*
- (c) *All paths and roads to be reviewed, and steps be taken to ensure all pedestrians can easily and safely reach their desired destination.*
- (d) *Investigate strategies to encourage and facilitate visitors exploration of the more remote parts of the ARBG*
- (e) *Water features to be expanded and enhanced*

The reviewed recommendations are:

- (a) *Development of a new Visitor Centre acting as a "gateway" to the southern regional parks should be pursued as the main priority; and*
- (b) *The provision of additional public toilets in the vicinity of the main arrival zone.*

Policy 10.3.1.2 (a) A herbarium is a systematic collection of dried plants. ARBG contributes specimens to the Auckland War Memorial Museum Herbarium. Establishment of a small reference herbarium will be investigated at the ARBG, which can be used:

- (a) *as an educational tool allowing visitors to understand the purpose and working of a herbaria; and*
- (b) *to explain the links between ARBG, the Auckland War Memorial Museum and other herbaria.*

Policy 10.3.1.7: Where appropriate small shelters will be constructed to provide interpretation and/or information relevant to adjacent collections. In some instances these shelters act as visual attractions drawing visitors in desired directions. The development and funding of these may be sought through sponsorship.

10.4 Satellite Botanic Gardens

Objective

- 10.4.1.1 To investigate the development of satellite botanic gardens (in the medium to long term), featuring different geographic and environmental qualities that complement the existing ARBG.

Explanation

References to the future development of satellite botanic gardens elsewhere in the Auckland Region are contained in the 1995 ARBG Management Plan. The current site offers little opportunity for further expansion. The selection of a new site should be based on geographic and environmental considerations. The public perception exists that the journey to ARBG is too long for many people to undertake.

Policies

- 10.4.1.2 The consideration of future satellite botanic garden sites will be submitted as part of the Regional Open Space Strategy.
- 10.4.1.3 Recommendations for any future satellite botanic garden development will emphasize the desirability of a facility that complements the goals of the ARBG.

Explanation

Policy 10.4.1.3: A new site should offer different growing conditions to those prevailing at the ARBG. This would provide opportunities to cultivate a range of plants complementary to conditions at ARBG. The development of any satellite gardens increases the opportunities for people to visit a botanic garden and expands the potential for further types of plant collections. There are numerous precedents overseas such as in Sydney and Los Angeles where satellite gardens fulfill effective roles in widening the range of plants being displayed by an institution.

The development of any Satellite Botanic Gardens is presently constrained by lack of available funding.

11.0 Recreational Services

11.1 Visitor Services

Objective

- 11.1.1.1 To ensure visitors are able to enjoy the gardens fully in a manner that is safe, and is considerate of other ARBG users.

Policies

- 11.1.1.2 Visitor services will be provided that:
- (a) facilitate safe and non-conflicting recreational experiences;
 - (b) manage competing demands and enforce relevant bylaws and regulations; and
 - (c) protect natural and cultivated resources and promote environmental awareness.
- 11.1.1.3 Potential conflict between recreational activities will be managed by separating them by place, time or season, whichever is appropriate.

11.2 Visitor Centre

Objective

- 11.2.1.1 To enhance ARBG user enjoyment, awareness and understanding of the gardens, plant species and goals of the gardens.

Policies

- 11.2.1.2 A staffed Visitor Centre and Library will be maintained at ARBG in association with the Friends.
- 11.2.1.3 The Visitor Centre will provide merchandise that enhances visitors' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of ARBG.

11.3 Safety and Security

Objectives

- 11.3.1.1 To ensure that recreational experiences within ARBG are safe and non-conflicting.
- 11.3.1.2 To provide adequate security to protect key assets, including plant collections, from wilful damage.

Policies

- 11.3.1.3 Reasonable measures will be taken to ensure the safety of visitors, staff and assets.
- 11.3.1.4 All structures will be built and maintained in accordance with the relevant building codes and regulations, (refer Section 10.2)

- 11.3.1.5 Visitor safety and security will be promoted through public information and education programmes. This will include the provision of information, education, separation of activities and the promulgation of bylaws.
- 11.3.1.6 Visitors will be made aware of hazards through the use of signage and barriers where necessary.

12.0 Recreational Activities

Recreational activities at ARBG fit into different categories. These are detailed in the following sections:

Section 12.1 General Recreation and related policies identifies general principles that will apply to all recreation and related activities.

Section 12.2 Permitted Activities. These activities are allowed at the ARBG subject to restrictions that are necessary to protect the health, safety and well being of visitors and facilitate garden operations and the enjoyment of other users.

Section 12.3 Controlled Activities. Permission needs to be obtained for these activities. These activities generally need to be carried out in specific locations, and may involve exclusive use of an area. Permission for these activities should be applied for from the ARBG Visitor Centre and will generally only be declined if the resource or area is already booked.

Section 12.4 Discretionary Activities. These are activities that:

- are not specifically identified as permitted or controlled activities;
- may involve the exclusive use of an area for a period of time i.e. a licence; and
- are not expressly prohibited.

Applications need to be made to the ARC for approval to undertake discretionary activities. Some applications will be considered at staff level. Others will be considered by ARC Councillors. Public comments via submissions may be sought in relation to some applications. The applications may be approved in full, approved subject to conditions or may be declined.

Section 12.5 Prohibited Activities. These activities are not considered to be appropriate because they would have adverse effects on the garden environments or would significantly detract from the enjoyment of other users.

12.1 General Recreation and Related Policies

12.1.1 Freedom of access

Objective

12.1.1.1 To provide access to ARBG for all members of the regional community including visitors of limited mobility.

Policies

12.1.1.2 Public pedestrian access into ARBG will be provided free of charge at all times, except:

- (a) where it is necessary to ensure visitor safety;
- (b) where it is necessary to avoid interference with operational requirements (e.g. during pest control, garden maintenance and seasonal maintenance work).
- (c) where an area is being used for a controlled or discretionary activity (refer Sections 12.3 & 12.4); and

(d) in circumstances outlined in Section 12.1.2.

12.1.1.3 The design of the gardens and layout of facilities will allow access for people with disabilities.

12.1.2 User charges

Objective

12.1.2.1 To recover costs to the ARC where the benefit to the recipient is greater than that derived by the general public.

Policy

12.1.2.2 Where controlled or discretionary approval is required to carry out an activity not provided to the general public fees may be charged which:

- (a) reflect current market values;
- (b) reflect the degree of private benefit to be gained from the activity; and
- (c) cover administration costs.

Explanation

Where an area of the ARBG is hired out for events or use, the public may be charged for entry into the area. For example, the Northern Event Site is used for the Ellerslie Flower Show where all people entering the site are required to have purchased an entry ticket. Similarly several buildings around the ARBG are available for hire by private groups and individuals.

12.1.3 Tourism

Objective

12.1.3.1 To manage recreation and related activities at ARBG primarily for the enjoyment and use of the people of the Auckland region while making limited provision for tourism.

Policies

12.1.3.2 Priority will be given to tourism activities that:

- (a) give emphasis to activities based on plant collections, natural resources, or events and services;
- (b) are low impact; and
- (c) have small group size.

12.1.3.3 To manage the potential adverse effects of tourism on the ARBG and on visitors to the gardens, by licensing commercial tour operators regularly visiting the ARBG with groups of more than 10 people at a specified time.

12.1.3.4 Information resources will be provided to tour operators, to ensure that they consistently deliver appropriate, accurate and comprehensive ARBG information and interpretation.

12.2 Permitted Activities

Objectives

- 12.2.1.1 To provide and maintain a high quality setting for the recreational use, benefit, safety and enjoyment of the public of the region.
- 12.2.1.2 To provide for informal, unstructured recreation at the ARBG that does not detract from the park environment for other garden users.

Policies

- 12.2.1.3 The following activities may be undertaken in appropriate locations at ARBG without a permit or any specific approval and with minimal restriction:
 - (a) walking;
 - (b) picnicking;
 - (c) informal group games;
 - (d) children on tricycles; and
 - (e) other unstructured recreational activities.
- 12.2.1.4 In order to protect the environment, the health and safety of visitors or in order to facilitate ARBG operations, the above activities may be restricted by:
 - (a) location; and
 - (b) duration; and
 - (c) time of day; and
 - (d) season or time of year; and
 - (e) the physical condition of the setting, e.g. ground or infrastructure conditions.
- 12.2.1.5 Any other informal and unstructured recreational activities will comply with the following criteria. They shall:
 - (a) be casual and non-commercial;
 - (b) have duration of less than one day;
 - (c) have only minimal impacts on other ARBG users; e.g. noise;
 - (d) have no adverse environmental effects immediately after the activity has ceased;
 - (e) have no adverse effects outside of ARBG;
 - (f) not require exclusive use of an area or facility; and
 - (g) not be prohibited by statute, district plan or bylaw.

Explanation:

Policy 12.2.1.4: The majority of recreational activities that visitors wish to undertake during their visit are of an informal nature with a low impact on the ARBG resources and other visitors. These are allowed as of right with minimal restriction. These recreational activities incur no user charges, and involve no services, other than those required to provide and maintain the recreational settings and to ensure informal recreational experiences. It may however be necessary from time to time, to impose some restrictions on these activities. The restrictions would relate to such things as the prevailing condition of the environment or the health and safety of park visitors during operational activities such as pest control. Signs and information will be displayed to inform ARBG visitors of such restrictions when they apply.

12.2.2 Domestic Animals

Objective

12.2.2.1 To provide for the recreational walking of dogs at ARBG provided they do not pose a threat to the health and safety of ARBG visitors, or plant collections, or fauna.

Policies

12.2.2.2 All animals with the exception of dogs are prohibited from ARBG, except where prior discretionary approval has been obtained, refer Section 12.4.

12.2.2.3 Dogs will generally be allowed in all areas except:

- (a) ARBG service areas;
- (b) planted garden beds;
- (c) lakes, dams and ponds;
- (d) food concessionaire areas;
- (e) Northern Event Site during the Ellerslie Flower Show; and
- (f) other areas as designated by ARC.

12.2.2.4 In addition to excluding dogs from areas identified in Policy 12.2.2.3, the following restrictions apply:

- (a) dogs will be required to be on a lead at all times; and
- (b) owners must remove all dog droppings from the ARBG; and
- (c) dogs may be restricted from entering high use areas such as picnic sites/areas during peak use periods; and
- (d) any other restrictions as necessary to protect the ARBG environment, the health, safety and well-being of visitors and to facilitate park operations and the enjoyment of other park users.

12.2.2.5 Dog walking may be restricted by time and/or location.

12.2.2.6 Owners of dogs causing damage to plants or fauna will be held liable for damages.

12.2.2.7 Ensure that ARC controls relating to dogs are consistent with those adopted by Manukau City Council which apply within the bounds of the ARBG.

12.2.2.8 Dog use, impacts and visitor perceptions will be monitored.

Explanation

Policy 12.2.2.3: These restrictions do not include registered guide dogs.

Policy 12.2.2.4: In addition to excluding dogs from certain areas as set out in Policy 12.2.2.3, there is a need to ensure dogs do not detract from the enjoyment of other ARBG users or cause a nuisance. Restrictions provided for in these policies are designed to avoid or mitigate these adverse effects. Restrictions could include prohibiting dogs from certain areas of ARBG or only allowing dogs during certain time periods. Restrictions may be permanent or imposed for a limited time on a temporary basis. Temporary restrictions will be publicised in park brochures, signs or using other media, as appropriate. Dogs should be on a lead under direct and continuous control at all times. Owners must also be considerate of other park users and remove dog droppings.

Policy 12.2.2.5: If required the ARC may restrict dog walking at ARBG.

Policy 12.2.2.6: The Local Government Act 1974 enables the ARC to take action against dogs causing damage to plants or native fauna. Such actions may include destroying the dogs. Civil remedies are available to obtain reparation for damages.

Policy 12.2.2.7: The Manukau City Council Animal Bylaws will apply to all dogs at the ARBG.

12.3 Controlled Activities

Objective

12.3.1.1 To manage low impact activities that require temporary exclusive use of an area so as to avoid conflict between users.

Explanation

“Controlled Activities” are activities that are in principle appropriate, but a permission is required for resource allocation reasons and to ensure that applicants are informed of any restrictions or conditions that apply. Controlled Activities include all activities that are low impact and require exclusive use of ARBG resource or the provision of services. Activities include weddings at formal sites, group events, booking of building facilities. These may incur a user charge fee to cover booking costs, service and maintenance fees.

Policies

12.3.1.2 Permission will be required from the ARBG Visitor Centre where individuals or groups propose to undertake the following activities:
(a) special reservable sites (in particular wedding / ceremony sites); and
(b) use of meeting venues.

12.3.1.3 The guaranteed use of specific sites or facilities is possible only with a booked reservation.

12.3.1.4 Activities where permission is approved may be subject to restrictions or conditions in order to:
(a) ensure that other ARBG users are not adversely affected; and
(b) protect ARBG resources.

12.4 Discretionary Activities

12.4.1 Consented Activities

Objective

12.4.1.1 To undertake case-by-case assessments of activities which are not specifically provided for in this Plan.

Explanation

Activities that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of ARBG or other visitors or are not specifically provided for in this Plan will require approval. Approval will not necessarily be given. An approval system allowing for varying degrees of discretion and the criteria to be used in assessing applications is detailed as follows.

Policy

12.4.1.2 Formal approval (consents) will be required to be obtained for all activities involving occupation or temporary use of an area of the ARBG or ARBG resources if they are not:

- (a) identified in this Plan as permitted activities in Section 12.2;
- (b) subject to a permit process (controlled activity) as identified in Section 12.3 and are
- (c) prohibited by this Plan as identified in Section 12.5.

12.4.1.3 Formal approval will be required for the removal or collection of any plant or animal material. Consideration will be given to applications that are specifically for educational, scientific, cultural or operational purposes, and;

- (a) it is not conveniently available from suitable alternative sources;
- (b) it does not compromise the sustainability of any indigenous species; and
- (c) Tangata Whenua, as kaitiaki of native species, has been consulted.

Explanation

Policy 12.4.1.2 Activities that are not already identified in some form in the Plan will need to be assessed against the objectives and policies of the Plan. For this reason it is necessary for the proponents to make specific application to enable the effects of the proposed activity to be assessed.

Activities which will require approval include but are not limited to:

- (a) all commercial activities except those for which licences are sought (e.g. filming)
- (b) any events;
- (c) activities or events involving amplified sound;

Section 12.4.2 contains policies for plaques, signage and naming rights

Section 12.4.3 contains additional policies in relation to licences.

Section 12.4.4 contains policies that outline:

- (a) what information needs to be submitted when making an application;
- (b) how applications will be processed;

- (c) what matters may be considered in determining whether to grant or decline an application; and
- (d) matters which might be included as conditions, if necessary to manage adverse effects.

12.4.2 Plaques, Signage and Naming Rights

Objective

- 12.4.2.1 To ensure that the naming of ARBG settings or facilities or placement of commemorative plaques is consistent with ARC guidelines.

Policies

- 12.4.2.2 Commemorative plaques acknowledging the contribution of an individual or organisation to ARBG, will be permitted only:
 - (a) on garden seats and shelters;
 - (b) in an area at the Visitor Centre; and
 - (c) in other areas with authorisation of the ARC Parks and Recreation Committee.
- 12.4.2.3 Plaques and signage are to comply with the ARC parks signs manual.
- 12.4.2.4 The policy of allowing plaques to be placed on garden seats will be reviewed.
- 12.4.2.5 Donors of seats will be informed at the time of purchase that plaques and seats may be removed after 10 years. Where donors can be contacted they will be offered the option of replacing the seat and plaque.
- 12.4.2.6 The naming of features and facilities will be with the approval of the ARC Parks and Recreation Committee.

Explanations

Policy 12.4.2.2: Plaques are not permitted at ARBG except in exceptional circumstances such as commemorating significant events or peoples association with the ARBG. The ARC Parks and Recreation Committee will give approval for the erection of any plaque.

Policy 12.4.1.5: After about 10 years seats generally require replacement or expensive repairs. These costs are not included in the original purchase price.

12.4.3 Licences

Objective

- 12.4.3.1 To make provision for and manage activities which provide supplementary and complementary services or benefits to users of the gardens and are appropriate at the ARBG, but may require the exclusive use of garden resources.

Explanation

There are a number of existing activities on the parks that are generally compatible with the purposes and objectives of regional parks but offer an exclusive service to a selected group. The most appropriate way of providing for these activities is by way of a licence.

Refer to Appendix D for a listing of the present licences.

Policies

- 12.4.3.2 The application process set out in Section 12.4.4 shall be applied to all:
(a) proposals to enter into new licences; and
(b) renewals of existing licences unless the licence contains specific conditions enabling a renewal to occur without any further consideration.
- 12.4.3.3 Where licences are approved the term of the licence and any renewal will not exceed 20 years in total.
- 12.4.3.4 Any proposal that involves the construction of buildings and/or structures of a significant scale for the specific use of the licensee will require a formal amendment to this Plan.
- 12.4.3.5 ARBG staff will liaise with existing licensees to ensure that the terms and conditions of the licences are adhered to, and to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Explanations

Policy 12.4.3.3: Activities, which restrict public access or involve occupation (for example the fencing off of areas or the erection of buildings), can alienate areas of ARBG thereby making it inaccessible to the general public. These activities need to be carefully managed. Legal agreements in the form of licences provide the most effective means of managing these activities. The RMA restricts the issuing of leases to a maximum of 20 years. Any period above that is considered to amount to a subdivision of the land.

Policy 12.4.3.5: It is in the interest of both the ARC and the licensee to ensure that matters relating to the licence are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner. Regular meetings will be held with all licensees to ensure that the terms of the licence are being adhered to and to discuss matters of mutual interest.

12.4.4 Processing of applications

Objective

12.4.4.1 To process applications for the approval of activities at the ARBG in an efficient, fair and transparent manner.

Policies

- 12.4.4.2 All applications for approval to carry out an activity involving occupation or temporary use shall include the following information, as appropriate to the scale and nature of the activity proposed:
- (a) a description of the proposed activity, including the preferred location, number of people who will participate, the duration/ frequency of the activity;
 - (b) a description of the potential adverse effects of the activity, if any, on the environment and any actions the applicant proposes to take to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects;
 - (c) a description of any measures proposed which may have the effect of restricting public access;
 - (d) an assessment that demonstrates that no other suitable location outside of the ARBG is suitable and available for the activity;
 - (e) a statement detailing what, if any other approvals or consents are required from other agencies;
 - (f) an identification of those persons interested in or affected by the proposal, the consultation undertaken, and any response to the views of those consulted; and
 - (g) an assessment that demonstrates that the proposal is not inconsistent with objectives and policies contained in this Plan.
- 12.4.4.3 Applications for activities involving occupation or temporary use in terms of Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.3 shall be publicly notified when the term sought exceeds five years.
- 12.4.4.4 Except in the case of licences, the Director of Parks and Recreation will recommend whether decisions on any application seeking approval to carry out activities covered by Section 12.4 will be made by staff or referred to the Council having regard to:
- (a) the level of benefit to the regional community;
 - (b) the degree to which the proposal is consistent with the objectives and policies in this Plan;
 - (c) the level of impact on park resources;
 - (d) the level of impact on adjoining communities;
 - (e) the degree to which the proposed use restricts public access or alienates the ARBG; and
 - (f) the potential to set a precedent that could have adverse effects on the ARBG in the future.
- 12.4.4.5 When considering applications seeking approval to carry out activities covered by Section 12.4.1 or 12.4.3 particular regard will be given to the following:
- (a) the degree to which the proposal is consistent with the objectives and policies in this Plan;
 - (b) the degree to which the proposed activity alienates the general public use of ARBG;

- (c) the effects of the proposal on natural and cultural heritage features of the ARBG and other users;
- (d) whether the proposal could reasonably be undertaken in another location or on another location at the ARBG, where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less;
- (e) the degree to which the proposed activity alienates the general public use of ARBG;
- (f) temporal considerations with priority being given to short term activities;
- (g) the degree to which the alienation is necessary for the protection of public safety, the security of the activity concerned or the competent operation of the activity concerned; and
- (h) any relevant oral or written submissions received.

12.4.4.6 In order to protect the ARBG environment, the health, safety and wellbeing of visitors and to facilitate ARBG operations an application seeking approval to carry out an activity covered by Sections 12.4.1 or 12.4.3 may be declined, approved, or approved with conditions imposed on it, relating to:

- (a) location;
- (b) duration;
- (c) time of day the activity may be undertaken;
- (d) time of year the activity may be undertaken;
- (e) measures for mitigating adverse effects on the environment and natural resources;
- (f) measures for monitoring the effects of the activity;
- (g) number of people who may participate;
- (h) the use of ARBG facilities or services;
- (i) health and safety factors;
- (j) the imposition of a trial period to assess the effects of the activity on the ARBG;
- (k) the review of the approval and/ or any conditions imposed; and
- (l) any other matter the ARC considers relevant to ensure the activity is compatible with the objective of this Plan.

Explanations

Policy 12.4.4.2: This Policy identifies the type of information that is necessary in order to assess the implications of activities involving limited occupation or temporary use. Applicants should consult with ARBG staff prior to submitting an application in order to determine the level of information appropriate and necessary to enable assessment of the application. Where ARBG staff consider that the information submitted with an application is not sufficient to determine the effects of the activity proposed, further information may be requested. Decisions requiring ARC consent will generally be reported at the normal regular meetings of the ARC (or committee with appropriate delegation) thus the processing timeframes for these applications may vary according to when applications are received.

Policy 12.4.4.3: Publicly notifying proposals ensures that the public are able to comment and provides the ARC with a feel for the level of public support or otherwise for the proposal.

12.5 Prohibited Activities

Objective

- 12.5.1.1 To prevent activities from occurring that would have an adverse impact on the environment of the gardens or would significantly detract from the enjoyment of other ARBG users.

Policies

- 12.5.1.2 The following activities are prohibited:
- (a) Off-road motorised vehicles, excluding wheelchairs;
 - (b) Aircraft that are landing, taking off, hovering or overflying below the Civil Aviations minimum height. This includes fixed wing aircraft and microlights.
 - (c) Casual use of bicycles beyond the public carparks;
 - (d) Rollerskates, rollerblades, skateboards, scooters and similar devices.
 - (e) Unauthorised removal of plant material;
 - (f) Firearms, slingshots, projectile firing devices.

13.0 Education

Introduction

One of the goals of education is to influence the range of plants grown by gardeners in the region by providing display gardens containing labelled plants of proven suitability for local growing conditions. To assist gardeners with their plant selection and propagation, a range of advisory leaflets based on the various plant collections are available through the ARBG Visitor Centre. These leaflets contain horticultural advice and recommend a range of suitable plants for ornamental and amenity planting in the Auckland region.

Another education goal is to assist people to identify plants through the provision of a comprehensive Plant Records Database, plant labels, informative and interpretative signage, the Friends Horticultural Reference Library, and botanically knowledgeable staff.

Demonstration garden areas within ARBG allow for trials of different plant types, growing techniques and design styles. Visitors to these gardens can learn about various plant combinations, and horticultural practices for managing similar home gardens. ARBG will encourage commercial growers to produce a range of plants that are suitable for the growing conditions of the Auckland region.

Education Goals

To influence the range of plants grown by gardeners in the Auckland region.

To promote and enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of plants and the ecosystems in which they occur.

To increase understanding of threatened plants, particularly native plants under threat in the region.

To raise public commitment to the sustainable management of our environment.

To raise public awareness of the relationship between Tangata Whenua and the environment, and their traditional use of plants.

To promote positive attitudes for the environment.

The following sections identify the role of education at ARBG.

Section 13.1 identifies the education services provided.

Section 13.2 details the delivery of community based education programmes.

Section 13.3 identifies the role of ARBG in providing school programmes.

Section 13.4 describes the provision of the Friends Horticultural Reference Library.

Section 13.5 details the ARBG photographic collection.

13.1 Education Services

Objectives

- 13.1.1.1 To educate the following groups:
- (a) home gardeners;
 - (b) visitors to the ARBG;
 - (c) community groups;
 - (d) schools – pre-school, primary, intermediate and secondary; and
 - (e) tertiary institutions – universities, polytechnics.
- 13.1.1.2 To encourage informal learning for visitors.
- 13.1.1.3 To provide accurate advice, information and orientation for visitors.

Policies

- 13.1.1.4 Interpretation and educational services will be provided where they meet one or more of the following criteria:
- (a) they contribute to people's understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultivated values of ARBG;
 - (b) they promote good environmental practices / behaviour that minimises impacts on ARBG;
 - (c) they facilitate visitor understanding of the role of ARBG; and
 - (d) they have been identified in surveys as required or desired by the public.
- 13.1.1.5 Where appropriate, interpretation will include interpretation of the relationship of Tangata Whenua with taonga. Development of any such interpretation will be undertaken in conjunction with Tangata Whenua.

Explanation

Policy 13.1.1.4: Prioritisation for interpretation and education will be identified through the ARBG Interpretation Plan and Annual Planning process using the criteria detailed in this policy.

13.1.2 Advisory Leaflets

Objective

- 13.1.2.1 To provide printed information and recommendations on specific plant groups grown at ARBG.

Policies

- 13.1.2.2 Evaluation panels comprised of staff and community/stakeholder representatives, will continue to:
- (a) assess plant groups grown at the ARBG,
 - (b) produce new leaflets, and
 - (c) where necessary review and update titles previously published.

13.1.3 Signs and Labels

Objectives

- 13.1.3.1 To enhance visitor understanding of the ARBG through the provision of signs and labels detailing information on garden features.
- 13.1.3.2 To label plant species and associations accurately and provide appropriate interpretative signage.

Policies

- 13.1.3.3 Signs giving directions to specific areas and facilities will be provided where practicable.
- 13.1.3.4 Signs that give detailed data on specific collections / plant groups will be provided where possible.
- 13.1.3.5 Interpretation panels that stimulate interest and convey key messages will be provided where possible.
- 13.1.3.6 One clearly visible label will be provided for each species or cultivar / plant group will be provided where resources allow. Labels will be monitored for accuracy.
- 13.1.3.7 Where appropriate, Maori language will be included in plant collection signage and interpretation material.

13.2 Community Education Programmes

Objectives

- 13.2.1.1 To provide lectures and practical workshops that meet community demand and that contribute to greater understanding of plants and their use.
- 13.2.1.2 To provide education programmes and activities that instill a learning experience through integrated and enjoyable activities.
- 13.2.1.3 To facilitate a range of programmes targeting school-aged children during holiday periods.

Policies

- 13.2.1.4 Community educational programmes will be provided where they meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - (a) they contribute to participants' understanding and appreciation of plant collections;
 - (b) they facilitate participants' understanding of the role of ARBG; and
 - (c) have been identified in surveys as required or desired by the public.
- 13.2.1.5 Community education programmes will continue to be provided regularly.
- 13.2.1.6 All community education programmes will be evaluated to assess participants' needs and expectations.

- 13.2.1.7 Children's school holiday education programmes will be compatible with the objectives of the ARBG and may be delivered by external providers.

13.3 School Education Programmes.

Objectives

- 13.3.1.1 To provide a wide range of learning experiences that develop knowledge, skills, awareness, and promote positive attitudes towards the environment.
- 13.3.1.2 To encourage children to protect and enhance the environment.
- 13.3.1.3 To incorporate a range of learning areas/styles/models within the education programmes.

Policies

- 13.3.1.4 School education services will be aligned to the New Zealand curriculum framework.
- 13.3.1.5 School education programmes will continue to be delivered while supported by the ARC and Ministry of Education.
- 13.3.1.6 Educational services for all levels of visiting schools and tertiary institutions will be provided where possible.
- 13.3.1.7 A range of practical gardening experiences will be provided for school children.

Explanation

Policy 13.3.1.5: The ARBG provides a range of environmental education programmes for school children based on the New Zealand Curriculum. These are currently receiving significant financial support from the Ministry of Education. Programmes are delivered through a range of experiential learning opportunities.

Policy 13.3.1.6: ARBG has also built links with a variety of tertiary institutions including polytechnics and universities. These contacts provide a range of educational, research and development opportunities that benefit ARBG, the student and/or the institution.

13.4 The Friends Horticultural Reference Library

The Friends Horticultural Reference Library (the Library) is attached to the ARBG Visitor Centre and is available for community use for the study of plants and garden literature. The Friends are a major contributor towards the funding of books for the Library and raised funds for its construction. The Friends assistance has enabled the Library to provide reference and information on a wide selection of horticultural subjects.

Objectives

- 13.4.1.1 To provide accurate, up-to-date information for staff, visitors and other organisations on horticultural and botanical understanding and research
- 13.4.1.2 To increase community awareness of the ARBG library and its availability or use.
- 13.4.1.3 To support the library activities of: study, scientific research and enjoyment of plants.

Explanations

Objective 13.4.1.1: The Library is a vital part of the ARBG operation, used extensively by staff, students, researchers and the general public for research and reference. It is an essential resource for horticultural and botanical learning, and for enabling staff to keep up to date on horticultural matters.

Objective 13.4.1.3: The Library is the primary resource for researching the botanical names of plants prior to entering them into the Plant Records Database, and prior to ordering plant labels.

Policies

- 13.4.1.4 When ever possible, current and up to date plant and reference publications will be added to the Library by the Library management group.
- 13.4.1.5 As additional titles need to be accommodated additional shelving will be installed, and as necessary some titles will be archived. In the term of this plan the size of the Library Building will not be increased.
- 13.4.1.6 Initiatives will be considered that will attract increased visitor use of the Library.
- 13.4.1.7 The long-term development of the Library will be reviewed in conjunction with the Friends.

Explanations

Policy 13.4.1.4: Books and journals are catalogued into the main ARC library database, and also into the ARBG library database. Journals are considered to be very important; particularly as many libraries no longer collect these due to the cost. Journals assist staff to keep up to date with the latest in horticultural and taxonomic research. The Library Management Group comprising staff, representatives of the Friends and other stakeholders with special interest and expertise, meets regularly to advise on acquisition strategies and other matters relating to the management of the Library. When acquiring new books most emphasis is placed on technical books such as floras and monographs, particularly those that relate to the plant collections

held at the Gardens. Titles are obtained upon the recommendation of the Library Management Group and are largely funded by the Friends.

Policy 13.4.1.7: At present many visitors to ARBG are not aware that there is a library or that the library is open for community use. To assist with community awareness of these facilities initiatives to be taken include redesign of the entrance, and the mounting of special displays.

13.5 Photographic Collection

Objectives

- 13.5.1.1 To provide a pictorial image for each plant record where possible, which supplements the written information, (refer Section 15.2, Plant Records Database).
- 13.5.1.2 To provide an accurate up to date catalogued database of all images.

Explanation

Plant images complement the accessions held on the Plant Records Database, (refer also to Section 15.2).

Policies

- 13.5.1.3 A comprehensive collection of appropriate photographic images will be held at the ARBG, and this collection will be added to progressively as resources allow.
- 13.5.1.4 An image reference database will be developed and maintained to provide accurate pictures for staff, visitors and other organisations/individuals.
- 13.5.1.5 Photographic images will be available for hire and sale to external parties according to current ARC guidelines, with the proviso that if they are published acknowledgement of the ARBG must be made.

Explanations

Policy 13.5.1.3: The ARBG currently holds an extensive photographic collection as a complement to the Library resources. Most images held are of plants that have been accessioned by the ARBG. Significant events and developments have also been photographed and the images filed for historical reference

Policy 13.5.1.4: Most images are captured on colour transparencies, which are stored in the Visitor Centre. It is anticipated that in future the use of digital images will increase significantly. A wide selection of images can be drawn on for enlargements to be used in the Visitor Centre displays, and for promotional purposes. Lectures and other presentations can be illustrated with appropriate images of plants and the ARBG.

14.0 Conservation and Environmental Values

Introduction

The ARBG plant conservation mission is to conserve plant species with particular emphasis on regionally and nationally threatened New Zealand native plants in the Auckland Region through using the resources and horticultural expertise of ARBG in relevant partnerships. The ARBG recognises this important conservation role involved in growing threatened plants in cultivation (ex situ – not where they are naturally found) as conservation collections, to act as a backstop against more extinction of New Zealand's unique flora. These ex situ populations provide plant material for education, research and, eventually, possible reintroduction to the wild, particularly through conservation programmes.

A unique part of the gardens consists of a portion of remnant native forest in the northern end of ARBG. This forest, which provides a contiguous link with the Manukau City Council (MCC) Totara Park, provides visitors with a contrast to the cultivated plant collections throughout the gardens.

As the land area outside of the ARBG boundary continues to be developed into housing, the gardens will continue to be an important green open space with high landscape values.

Conservation Goals:

To conserve regionally and nationally threatened plant species of the Auckland region.

To provide germplasm from ARBG ex situ collections for re-introduction into the wild.

To promote the recognition and conservation of threatened plants through public awareness programmes.

The following sections identify the conservation and environmental values:

Section 14.1 identifies the conservation role of the gardens, particularly ex-situ cultivation.

Section 14.2 identifies conservation and protection of the native forest area.

Section 14.3 details the protection of fresh water areas.

Section 14.4 describes the control of plant and animal pests.

Section 14.5 details protection of landscape settings within the gardens.

Section 14.6 details the conservation of cultural heritage values.

14.1 Conservation at ARBG

Objectives

- 14.1.1.1 To provide for the ex situ cultivation of threatened plants.
- 14.1.1.2 To facilitate partnerships with Department of Conservation (DoC) and/or other organisations to achieve agreed biodiversity objectives.

Policies

- 14.1.1.3 Species protection and reintroduction programmes for uncommon, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species will be undertaken where appropriate and practicable.
- 14.1.1.4 The ARBG will act as a threatened plant resource centre for the region.

Explanation

Policy 14.1.1.4: There are over fifty threatened animal species and one hundred and eighty threatened plant species within the Auckland region. The ARBG is able to participate as a partner in agreed projects to protect threatened plants and habitats throughout the Auckland region.

14.2 Native Forest Area

These objectives and policies relate particularly to the natural forest area on the banks of and the northern side of Puhinui Stream, and include the native totara stands in the Gondwana Arboretum, (refer to Maps 1, 2 or 3).

Objectives

- 14.2.1.1 To conserve, enhance and restore the biodiversity of the ARBG native forest area, to a self-sustaining level.
- 14.2.1.2 To protect remnant mature trees at the ARBG, particularly totara and to take appropriate measures to promote their health.

Policies

- 14.2.1.3 An ongoing assessment will be provided of the condition of the ARBG forest remnant by compiling and maintaining a database of plants present, and developing monitoring programmes for key species.
- 14.2.1.4 The protection of endangered, rare or threatened species, habitats and ecosystems will be undertaken by fencing, replanting, and other methods, as appropriate, (refer also to Section 14.4).
- 14.2.1.5 Species protection and reintroduction programmes for uncommon, rare, threatened, or endangered species of flora will be undertaken where appropriate and practicable. Any such reintroduction programmes will be developed in consultation with appropriate parties.
- 14.2.1.6 ARBG management may authorise removal of dangerous trees.

- 14.2.1.7 Tangata Whenua will be invited to become involved in any native forest biodiversity projects in such a way that recognises and provides for their relationship with their ancestral taonga.
- 14.2.1.8 The public community will be invited to become involved in projects and programmes that affect ARBG and the native forest area.

14.3 Fresh Water Habitats

Objective

- 14.3.1.1 To protect and enhance the ARBG wetlands and waterways as habitats for a range of indigenous fresh water plant and animal species.

Policies

- 14.3.1.2 Where possible ARBG will avoid, mitigate, and where practicable, remove all threats to water quality from pollution, siltation and invasive weeds through appropriate measures, including:
- (a) managing the impacts of invasive aquatic and riparian plant and animals;
 - (b) maintaining 'best practice' use of chemicals and fertilisers in proximity to water bodies, recognising Tangata Whenua values relating to water; and
 - (c) appropriate siting of facilities.
- 14.3.1.3 Any development within ARBG will ensure that the water levels and flows in watercourses and wetlands remain sufficient for the habitat needs of indigenous species.
- 14.3.1.4 Undertake monitoring of water erosion levels in key waterways.

14.4 Plant and Animal Pests

Objective

- 14.4.1.1 To reduce plant and animal pests to levels where they have no significant adverse effects on the natural and cultivated environments of ARBG.

Policies

- 14.4.1.2 The type, level and impacts of plant and animal pests present in ARBG will be monitored.
- 14.4.1.3 The control of plant and animal pests will focus on:
- (a) areas which contain at-risk ecosystems, habitats, plant communities or species;
 - (b) eradicating or containing pests where they pose a threat to areas of significant cultural heritage or recreational values;
 - (c) undertaking plant and animal pest control programmes consistent with the Regional Pest Management Strategies in consultation with the Biosecurity Unit;
 - (d) carrying out possum control in ARBG;
 - (e) controlling weed infestations along the boundaries of the native forest remnant.

14.5 Landscape Quality

Objective

- 14.5.1.1 To protect the intrinsic natural and cultivated landscape values of ARBG, ensuring that any facility and garden development contributes to the visual coherence and quality of the landscape setting.

Policies

- 14.5.1.2 The landscape quality of ARBG will be preserved and enhanced by:
- (a) maintaining an essentially open space garden setting with respect to facilities and structures;
 - (b) conserving and enhancing the dominant landscape features and visual patterns through plantings.
- 14.5.1.3 All development and management proposals will include reference to any effects on landscape values and the appropriateness of the siting and design of the development.
- 14.5.1.4 Submissions will be made to Manukau City Council in respect of district plans and plan changes to ensure that the use and zoning of neighbouring land does not threaten the visual quality of ARBG.

14.6 Cultural Heritage

Objective

- 14.6.1.1 To identify and manage any sites and areas that are of historical, archaeological and cultural significance.

Policies

- 14.6.1.2 Recording of significant historical associations with ARBG will be undertaken.
- 14.6.1.3 Where appropriate, Tangata Whenua and other relevant parties will be consulted over the planning, management, delivery and interpretation of appropriate archaeological and historic sites.

14.7 Sustainable Gardens Management

Objectives

- 14.7.1.1 To employ sustainable and environmentally responsible practices, technologies and waste management practices wherever practicable at ARBG.
- 14.7.1.2 To manage ARBG resources and environment through the use of environmental best practice.

Policies

- 14.7.1.3 The ARC and ARBG licensees in developing and managing garden facilities will:
- (a) follow best practices including environmentally responsible technology and resource management practices wherever possible;
 - (b) seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects arising from the facility; and
 - (c) obtain all necessary consents, permit or approvals before proceeding with any development or maintenance works.
- 14.7.1.4 Waste minimisation, reuse and recycling will be supported and encouraged by:
- (a) advocating ARBG visitors to take their rubbish home for recycling.
 - (b) requiring concessionaires and/or licensees at ARBG to be responsible for any rubbish products generated by their activities.

15.0 Science

Introduction

The core scientific goal for ARBG is to research and document living plant collections and to foster the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of all plants. A detailed database on plants, including information about where they came from and collector's field notes is maintained at ARBG. The ARBG contributes a range of dried plant specimens to the Auckland Museum Herbarium.

Since 1975 around 23,000 plant accessions have been recorded on the Plant Records Database. Some plants have since died or otherwise been removed, but the majority of these are on display. Not recorded on the database are the numerous annual bedding plants, herbs and vegetables that each season feature in display gardens.

ARBG also undertakes trials to evaluate plants for their gardening merit for the Auckland region. Through its breeding programme numerous cultivars have been developed at ARBG and are grown in gardens here and overseas. Most of these plants have the prefix 'Wiri' in their cultivar name.

Science Goals

To provide accurate and up to date horticultural taxonomy of plants held in ARBG collections.

To provide plant specimens of botanical and conservation value, and possible weed potential, to the Auckland Museum Herbarium.

To provide a repository of threatened plants, particularly plants threatened in the Auckland region.

To provide trial and display gardens which contribute to greater understanding of the educational, conservation and scientific values of plants.

The following sections describe the science roles.

Section 15.1 identifies the science and research role that ARBG undertakes.

Section 15.2 details the role of the Plant Collections Database.

15.1 Science Role

Objectives

- 15.1.1.1 To provide a resource centre for the protection of threatened native plants particularly those in the Auckland region.
- 15.1.1.2 To promote relationships with organisations in the research of plants.
- 15.1.1.3 To cultivate plant species suitable for the Auckland region.

Explanation

Objective 15.1.1.1: ARBG works in partnership with DoC on threatened native plant programmes.

Policies

- 15.1.1.4 Identification of plant species and horticultural cultivars will be as accurate as possible.
- 15.1.1.5 Plant trials and the evaluation of plant merits for growing in the Auckland region will be continued.
- 15.1.1.6 Evaluation panels comprised of staff and community/stakeholder representatives will continue assessment of the horticultural value of perennials, shrubs, native plants, and other selected plant groups.
- 15.1.1.7 The ARBG will continue to act as a threatened plant resource centre for the region.
- 15.1.1.8 ARBG will continue to foster relationships with the horticultural industry, tertiary and scientific establishments in the study and research of plant species and trials, which are beneficial to ARBG and the Auckland region.

15.2 Plant Records Database

Objectives

- 15.2.1.1 To provide accurate, up to date information about germplasm which have at present or have in the past an association with ARBG.
- 15.2.1.2 To provide accurate plant information on the Plant Records Database, for staff, visitors, organisations / individuals, and for management use, and as a tool for curators to manage the living plant collections.
- 15.2.1.3 To assist with plant identification and the provision of plant information through access to information held in the Plant Records Database.

Explanation

Objective 15.2.1.2: The development and maintenance of the Plant Records Database provides staff, visitors and other organisations including tertiary institutions and the horticultural research sector, with a valuable resource tool. ARBG has an important relationship with the Auckland War Memorial Museum Herbarium, supplying a wide range of herbarium specimens. This relationship extends to other organisations where ARBG can supply material for taxonomists.

Policies

- 15.2.1.4 The Plant Records Database will be maintained and monitored to provide an accurate up to date, and accessible source of plant information for staff, visitors and other organisations/individuals.
- 15.2.1.5 All new plants (accessions) introduced to the ARBG will be recorded on the Plant Records Database as will all subsequent significant activities relating to those plants.

- 15.2.1.6 Within the life of this plan the following upgrades will be developed as part of the Plant Records Database;
- (a) plant location digitised maps will accompany a proportion of plant accessions.
 - (b) images will accompany a percentage of the accessions, (refer Section 13.7).he Plant Record Database will record for each accession its flowering period, flower colour, flower scent, time of seed harvesting, cultural techniques and requirements, propagation techniques, pest and disease susceptibility, size of plants at 10 years of age, and other distinguishing features.
- 15.2.1.7 Visitors to ARBG will be able to access the Plant Records Database in the Visitor Centre during open hours.

Explanation:

Policy 15.2.1.4: The accurate documentation of plant species and specimens is fundamental to botanic gardens. Plant collections then become a combination of plants, and information relevant to those plants giving a level of “added value” to gardeners, researchers and other organisations. This is the main function that differentiates botanic gardens from public parks and display gardens.

16.0 Relationships

Introduction

As a government agency, the ARC is statutorily obliged to consult with the public during the preparation of any management plan. The process does not stop there however. The effective management of the ARBG requires the development and nurturing of ongoing relationships with many individuals and groups. This facilitates community involvement in, and support for, ARBG and enables Iwi, interest groups, other public agencies and neighbours to contribute their skills and knowledge to ARBG.

Building relationships with public agencies, groups and organisations with interests in the ARBG is important to reflect the needs of stakeholders throughout the region. Close liaison is needed with local authorities and other public agencies whose planning and other activities may impact on ARBG or the surroundings. Building strong relationships with adjoining communities and neighbours provides mutual benefits. Relationships are also important between the ARBG and interest groups such as environmental groups, recreation groups and business interests. Such groups provide expert advice to the ARBG and enable innovative and integrated management of the gardens.

The ARBG has key relationships with the community, and a range of groups and organisations that contribute knowledge, skills, money, or physical work. These all provide resources that may not otherwise be available to the Council and so enable more to be achieved from the limited resources available. The Friends support the ARBG in many ways including financial contributions, volunteer work and assistance with programmes and events

Relationship Goals

To establish and foster partnerships that benefit ARBG and visitors.

To ensure that the ARBG reflects the needs and values of the community

The following sections detail how the ARC will foster and maintain relationships.

Section 16.1 identifies the relationship with the local and regional community.

Section 16.2 details the relationship with the Friends.

Section 16.3 details relationships with Tangata Whenua/

Section 16.4 describes the relationship of specialist organisations.

16.1 Community Relationships

Objectives

- 16.1.1.1 To increase community understanding of and support for the ARBG through involving individuals and groups in the management of the gardens.
- 16.1.1.2 To foster relationships with neighbours and keep them informed about issues that directly affect them.
- 16.1.1.3 To consult with the community to recognise and provide for differences through:
 - (a) identifying why some groups are traditionally under-represented in visitor statistics; and
 - (b) seeking to removing any barriers identified in (a);

Policies

- 16.1.1.4 Promote and provide opportunities for individuals, businesses and groups to be actively involved in ARBG activities that support the objectives and policies of this Plan.
- 16.1.1.5 Visitor satisfaction, needs, expectations and preferences will be monitored.
- 16.1.1.6 Partnerships will continue to be fostered to facilitate on-going consultation, support and development.
- 16.1.1.7 Liaison with public authorities e.g. DoC, territorial local authorities, Crown agencies and education agencies, will be maintained to facilitate co-operative partnerships.
- 16.1.1.8 Liaison with Manukau City Council will continue, to ensure an integrated approach to the management of the native forest contiguous with Totara Park and other projects of mutual interest.
- 16.1.1.9 The co-operation of neighbours on matters of mutual interest (e.g. pest control, public access, maintenance of amenity values, landscapes and vistas) will be fostered.
- 16.1.1.10 Recreation needs of different cultural groups will be recognised through:
 - (a) establishing contacts with ethnic groups; and
 - (b) making provision for appropriate cultural events.

16.2 “Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens”

Objectives

- 16.2.1.1 To promote the public use, benefit and enjoyment of the ARBG and the goals of the ARC in partnership with the Friends.
- 16.2.1.2 To support the ongoing development of the Friends.

Policies

- 16.2.1.3 ARBG management will continue to liaise and support the Friends volunteer partnership programmes.

16.2.1.4 The development of a 'docent' (or expert volunteer) scheme will be undertaken by training and resourcing suitable volunteers to operate and assist with education and interpretation services.

16.2.1.5 A range of opportunities will be developed for the Friends to contribute to ARBG visitors' enjoyment and understanding of plant collections, services, conservation values and natural features.

Explanation

Policy 16.2.1.3: The Friends were formed in 1983 to promote and support the development of ARBG. The Friends have worked with ARBG staff and management to foster public interest in horticulture, through arranging lectures, demonstrations, education programmes and the like, and to stimulate greater interest in plants, and gardening. The Friends also assist in raising funds for special projects and garden amenities, and they assist with the Visitor Centre and publicity. The ARC recognises the immense value of the Friends involvement and will continue to foster this relationship.

16.3 Tangata Whenua

Objective

16.3.1.1 To involve Tangata Whenua in ways that:
(a) take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and
(b) have particular regard to the practical expression of kaitiakitanga.

Explanation

Objective 16.3.1.1. The development of partnerships between the ARC and Tangata Whenua is the most practical means of giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. These partnerships can be both informal and formalised through the development of written agreements. The courts and Waitangi Tribunal have identified a number of broad principles which Government agencies such as the ARC must take into account. Essentially they incorporate obligations on both Tangata Whenua and agencies of reasonable co-operation and acting in good faith.

Objective 16.3.1.1 (b): Kaitiakitanga refers to the duties to preserve and nurture the physical and spiritual aspects associated with any land, resource or taonga. The ARBG is a repository of indigenous flora that is valued by Maori as tuku iho (treasures passed on or handed from generation to generation). Maori value the ARBG as a place that nurtures this taonga for the benefit of all people including Maori.

Policy

16.3.1.2 Effective relationships will be developed and maintained with Tangata Whenua which emphasise:
(a) identifying and making provision for the specific recreational needs of Tangata Whenua;
(b) consulting with Tangata Whenua over habitat enhancement and species protection;

- (c) the identification, assessment and interpretation of cultural information, Maori history and any sites and features of significance to iwi; and
- (d) identifying opportunities for involvement in the survey, monitoring and management of natural and cultural resources.

Explanation

Where appropriate Maori will be involved in the planning of relevant plant collections and associated services and programmes. As Maori are the traditional kaitiaki (holders) of knowledge regarding the traditional uses of plants, it is appropriate to use Maori experts / lecturers to deliver programmes that have specific Maori content or influence.

16.4 Specialist Organisations

Objectives

- 16.4.1.1 To encourage appropriate private and public interest groups to deliver services or provide sponsorship to the ARBG.
- 16.4.1.2 To foster cooperation with specialist organisations on matters of mutual interest.

Explanation

Objective 16.4.1.2: Specialist organisations include learning institutions and museums, series and commercial horticultural businesses, specialist plant societies and other botanic gardens.

Policies

- 16.4.1.3 Continue to liaise and support links with learning institutions and the Auckland Museum Herbarium.
- 16.4.1.4 Continue to have liaise and support links with plant nurseries and other relevant horticultural groups for plant collection management and partnering programmes.

Part III: Monitoring and Review

17.0 Introduction

The Local Government Act 1974 requires the ARC to ensure that this Plan adapts to changing circumstances or increased knowledge [Section 619 I, Local Government Act 1974], and requires the ARC to undertake five yearly reviews of the Plan.

In order to meet these requirements, the ARC proposes to:

- (a). undertake continuous monitoring of this Plan;
- (b). review the Plan (or parts thereof) if monitoring shows that circumstances and/or knowledge has changed in such a manner so as to necessitate a review; and
- (c). review the Plan every five years.

This part of the Plan identifies the elements requiring monitoring, the monitoring techniques that will be used, and the circumstances in which reviews (or partial reviews) will be undertaken.

17.1 Elements to be Monitored

Priorities for monitoring will be set through the ARC annual planning process. With regards to the elements requiring monitoring from this Plan, the following will be monitored:

Plant Collections

Managing the Collections
De-accessioning
Development of New and Existing Collections

Recreation

New Setting Developments
Recreation Activities

Education

Signs and labels

Conservation and Environmental Values

Native Forest Area
Fresh Water Habitats
Plant and Animal Pests

Science

Plant Records Database

Relationships

Community Values

18.0 Monitoring Techniques

In monitoring the elements detailed in Section 17.1, a range of indicators and standards are developed which detail the level of acceptable change of each element and the monitoring requirements.

18.1 Indicators for Monitoring

Indicators can be defined in ecological or social categories, and provide detailed specific and measurable variables that reflect the overall condition of an area or feature.

Indicators used for monitoring have the following characteristics:

Specific – indicators define specific circumstances rather than general conditions.

Objective – indicator variables are measured in absolute terms.

Reliable – indicators are reliable and repeatable when measurements yield similar results under similar conditions.

Resilience – indicators are responsive to, and help determine management action.

Significant – indicators address prominent issues and management concerns.

18.2 Standards for Monitoring

Standards are defined as the minimum acceptable condition for each indicator variable. They clearly detail when conditions are unacceptable and action must be taken.

Standards used for monitoring have the following characteristics:

Quantitative – standards are expressed in an unequivocal way.

Expressed as a probability – standards can include a tolerance for when a particular condition is unacceptable.

Realistic – standards must reflect conditions that are obtainable.

18.3 Revision of Indicators and Standards.

Indicators and standards are revised in conjunction with a management plan review. Provisional indicators may be modified if they prove not to be sensitive enough to measure change. When an indicator is altered, the associated standard also requires to be changed to reflect the new measurement.

19.0 ARBG Indicators and Standards.

The following elements identify the indicators and standards the ARBG will monitor for this Plan.

| | |
|--|--|
| Plant Collections: De-accessioning. | |
| <i>"Plants that naturalise in plant collections will be monitored and may be de-accessioned where they do not support the relevant Plant Collection Guidelines".</i> | |
| Indicator | A plant accession will not become a threat to the natural environment through progression or invasive means. |
| Standard | 100% of all plant accessions will be scrutinised. |
| Monitoring | Monthly monitoring. Reporting to Collection Curators forum, as required. |
| Plant Collections: Managing the Collections. | |
| <i>"All plant collections will be monitored and maintained at the current levels as per the agreed Plant Collections Guidelines."</i> | |
| Indicator | All plant species are managed in good health and appearance. |
| Standard | 100% of all plant accessions will be scrutinised. |
| Monitoring | Weekly monitoring. Reporting to Collection Curators forum, as required. |
| Recreation Settings: New Setting Developments. | |
| <i>"The need for new facilities will be monitored ..."</i> | |
| Indicator | A percentage of visitors using the range of facilities at ARBG will have a high level of satisfaction. |
| Standard | Market research indicates high (greater than 70%) public desire for improved facilities and the services they offer. |
| Monitoring | Biennial, public perception and satisfaction survey. |
| Recreation Settings: Recreation Activities. | |
| <i>"Domestic Animals – "Dog use, impacts and visitor perceptions will be monitored."</i> | |
| Indicator | Dogs have a minimal impact on the physical resources, and the ARBG visitor is not disturbed by the activity. |
| Standard | 90% of ARBG visitors agree that the current policies should remain. |
| Monitoring | Biennial public perception survey. |
| Education: Signage and Labels. | |
| Plant labels: <i>"Labels will be monitored for accuracy"</i> | |
| Indicator | Plant labels where provided accurately identify plants. |
| Standard | 95% accuracy of plants labelled. |
| Monitoring | Annual. Report and benchmark against similar professional associations. |
| Conservation and Environmental Values: Native Forest Area. | |
| <i>"Monitoring key species"</i> | |
| Indicator | Five key plant species throughout the native forest area monitored for plant health. |
| Standard | 100% Key species maintained at existing levels. |
| Monitoring | Biennial survey of key plant species 5 yearly update survey of plants present. |
| Conservation and Environmental Values: Fresh Water Habitats | |
| <i>"monitoring of water erosion levels in key waterways"</i> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Indicator | Stream banks will be monitored at sites for erosion and other damage. |
| Standard | Record areas of significant stream bank erosion. |
| Monitoring | Annual monitoring. |
| Conservation and Environmental Values: Plant and Animal Pests. <i>"The type, level and impacts of plant and animal pests .. will be monitored"</i> | |
| Indicator | Plant and animal pests causing high level impacts will be monitored. Encroachment and impact on plant collections is minimised. |
| Standard | Impact on plant collections not exceeding acceptable thresholds as per plant evaluation panel reviews. |
| Monitoring | Monthly survey of plant and animal pests in the ARBG Plant Collections Annual survey of plant and animal pests in native forest area. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Science: Plant Records Database <i>"monitored to provide an accurate up to date ...information."</i> | |
| Indicator | Records will be kept up to date. |
| Standard | 95% of all records are accurate. |
| Monitoring | Annual. Report and benchmark against similar professional associations. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Relationships: Community Values <i>"Visitor satisfaction, needs, expectations and preferences"</i> | |
| Indicator | Visitors satisfied with parking, signage and information, toilets, commercial services offered. |
| Standard | 85% of visitors are satisfied with the level of services and facilities provided. |
| Monitoring | Biennial survey for satisfaction levels, needs, expectations and preferences. |

19.1 Monitoring Techniques

In monitoring the elements contained in this plan, the following techniques may be used but are not limited to:

- (a) annual park surveys;
- (b) use of focus groups;
- (c) photographic surveys, photo point monitoring;
- (d) site surveys of habitats;
- (e) population counts – range and number of species; and
- (f) benchmarking.

19.2 Plan Review

This Plan will be reviewed every five years. In the interim, the ARC may determine to review part of, or the entire Plan, in response to:

- (a) information from monitoring which indicates the need for a review or change;
- (b) The identification of new management issues or problems for which policy is required;
- (c) Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions; and
- (d) Policy changes made by the ARC.

Part IV Glossary

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ACC | Auckland City Council |
| Accessioning | The process of obtaining new plants for the permanent plant collections |
| Angiosperm | Flowering plants |
| ARA | Auckland Regional Authority |
| ARBG | Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens |
| ARC | Auckland Regional Council |
| Auckland Museum Herbarium | A department of the Auckland War Memorial Museum |
| Controlled activity | An activity which – (a) is provided for as a controlled activity, by a policy in this Plan; and (b) is allowed only if a permit is obtained in respect of that activity. |
| De-accessioning | The disposal of living plants from the collections |
| Discretionary activity | An activity which - (a) is provided for as a discretionary activity, by a policy in this Plan; (b) is allowed only if a consent, lease or licence is obtained in respect of that activity; and (c) may be approved, approved with conditions or declined. |
| Docent | Expert volunteer who organise and operate community education programmes. |
| Event | An event is an activity that is organised and designed to attract individual, group, public or corporate participation. |
| Ex-situ | Grown in cultivation away from natural habitat. |
| Germplasm | Genetic material, especially that contained within the reproductive cells of plants |
| Gondwana | Was the great prehistoric landmass that seperated to form the Southern Hemisphere continents of today. |
| Gymnosperm | Cone bearing plants (conifers). |
| Hapu | Means a sub-tribe, usually containing a number of whanau with a common ancestor. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Informal individual group activities | <p>Are activities which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are undertaken on a casual basis; • have a duration of less than one day; • have only minimal adverse effects on other park users; • have no adverse environmental effects detectable the following day; • have no adverse effects outside of the park; • do not involve the use of motorised equipment; • do not require the use or any services or additional facilities additional to those provided to all park users; and • are not prohibited by statute, district plan or bylaw. <p>Activities which may meet these criteria include but are not restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimming; • group games such as volleyball, petanque etc; and • picnicking. |
| In-situ Iwi Kaitiaki Kaitiakitanga | <p>In the wild.</p> <p>Maori tribe, usually containing a number of hapu with a common ancestor.</p> <p>Carer of any land, resource or taonga.</p> <p>To preserve and nurture the physical and spiritual aspects associated with any land, resource or taonga.</p> |
| Kohaunga reo / Kura kaupapa | <p>Maori early childhood school.</p> |
| MCC Permitted activity | <p>Manukau City Council</p> <p>An activity which is allowed by this Plan without specific approval if it meets any permanent restrictions which may be identified in this Plan or temporary restrictions which may be publicised in park brochures, signs or using other media as appropriate.</p> |
| Prohibited activity | <p>An activity that this Plan expressively prohibits and for which no permit, consent, lease or licence (or other approval) will be granted.</p> |
| RMA 1991 | <p>Resource Management Act, 1991</p> |
| Tangata Whenua | <p>People of the land. Ranges from Maori generally to local hapu and iwi.</p> |
| the Friends | <p>The Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Incorporated</p> |
| Taonga | <p>Means something highly prized or treasured, tangible or intangible that contributes to Maori wellbeing. The term equates roughly to the concept of a resource, but incorporates a range of social, economic and cultural associations.</p> |

Appendices:

Appendix A: Stakeholders of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens

Auckland Botanical Society
Auckland Horticultural Council and Affiliates
Auckland War Memorial Museum – “Auckland Museum”
Auckland Zoological Park

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Cactus and Succulent Society
Crop and Food Research

Department of Conservation – “DoC”

Ellerslie Flower Show – “EFS”

Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, Inc. – the “Friends”

Herb Federation
HortResearch

Landcare Research
Landscape Industries

Manukau City Council - “MCC”, and other territorial authorities in the region
Manukau Institute of Technology – “MIT”
Manurewa Community / Local neighbours.
Ministry of Education

Nursery and Garden Industry Association – “NGIA”
NZ Botanic Gardens
NZ Camellia Society

Palm and Cycad Society

Regional Parks and their support groups
Rose Societies
Royal NZ Forest and Bird Protection Society.
Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture

Specialist Horticultural Societies

Tangata Whenua, Iwi, Hapu

Unitec Institute of Technology – “Unitec”
University of Auckland

Appendix B: Significant Plant Collections

The following is a list of the plant collections at ARBG.

Comprehensive Collections

Explanation: **Comprehensive Collections**: where all species and cultivars of a significant plant group are obtained with the proviso that they are suitable for cultivation at the ARBG

Agathis species
Agave
Aloe
Araucaria species
Callistemon
Camellia species
Camellia hybrids (derived from small-leafed species)
Camellia sasanqua cultivars
Deutzia
Hibiscus hybrids
Hydrangea
Leptospermum scoparium cultivars
Magnolia
Metrosideros excelsa cultivars
Michelia
Palms
Philadelphus
Phormium (Maori weaving cultivars)
Pieris
Podocarpus
Potatoes (Maori cultivars)
Salvia
Spiraea
Viburnum

Representative Collections

Explanation: **Representative Collections**: where a sizable representation of a significant plant group is selected for introduction.

Azalea
Bulbs
Camellia japonica cultivars
Camellia reticulata cultivars
Carex
Conifers
Coprosma
Eucalyptus species
Euphorbia
Grevillea

Hebe
Hemerocallis
Home Garden Trees
Lagerstroemia
Leucadendron
Leucospermum
Malus
Melaleuca
NZ Native Plants
Olearia
Penstemon
Phormium (ornamental cultivars)
Pinus
Pittosporum
Protea
Prunus
Restios
Rhododendron
Rosa
Southern African plants
Spring flowering trees

Conservation Collections

Explanation: **Conservation Collections**; where plants are obtained for ex situ cultivation as part of specific conservation programmes

Carmichaelia williamsii
Clianthus puniceus
Euphorbia glauca
Hebe bishopiana
H. breviracemosa
Lepidium
Rorripa divaricata
Threatened Plant Garden

Ornamental Displays

Bedding plant displays
Dahlia display
Perennial displays

Thematic Displays

Explanation: **Thematic Displays**: relatively short-term displays of plants arranged according to a specific theme or for ornamental purposes.

Edible plants
Herb Garden

Appendix C: Extracts from Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 1974

SECTION 619 POWERS OF AUCKLAND AND WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCILS IN RELATION TO REGIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES--

(1) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "council" means the Auckland Regional Council or the Wellington Regional Council.

(2) If a council is of the opinion that any piece of land (which is within, or reasonably close to, its region and which is not vested in any public body) should, in the interests of the region and by reason of--

(a) Its particular features, being--

(i) Natural features, landscape, native bush, or vegetation; or

(ii) Historic, scenic, archaeological, biological, educational, community, or cultural features or other special features or values; or

(b) Its recreational significance or potential; or

(c) Both,--

be held in perpetuity for the purpose of protecting and preserving its intrinsic worth or for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public (and, in particular, the public of the region), the council may purchase or otherwise acquire the piece of land or take the piece of land for a public work under the Public Works Act 1981 as a regional park or regional reserve.

(3) No council may, under subsection (1) of this section, take land outside its region, unless the territorial authority within whose district the land is situated consents to the taking.

(4) Any land which is vested in a public body may, if a council and the public body controlling the land so agree, be transferred to the council upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the council and the public body, or, in default of agreement, on such terms as may be determined by the Commission on the application of either party. Any land so transferred shall be held by the council subject to the trusts (if any) affecting the land at the time of the transfer, and the council shall have and may exercise all the powers and authorities in respect of the land that were possessed by the public body from which the land was transferred.

(5) A council may set aside as a regional park or part thereof any land vested in it, and shall, in respect of any land so set aside, and in respect of any regional park or part thereof or any other land owned or occupied by the council for any other purpose, other than a public reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977, have in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other powers possessed by a council in respect of the park or other land the power to establish and maintain botanical gardens and all the powers vested in territorial authorities by section 601 of this Act.

(6) A council may, on any regional park owned, administered, or controlled by it, provide buildings suitable for the purposes of conducting therein a shop or kiosk at which members of the public using such regional park may purchase such articles or commodities which they may reasonably require; and the council may grant a lease or licence of the same to any person or persons, whether incorporated or not, at such rental or other consideration and for such period (with or without any right of renewal) and upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

(7) In addition to any other powers vested in it a council may from time to time in its discretion, and upon and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, make monetary grants to a local authority in or towards payment of the cost of providing, improving, or maintaining public access, whether by the road or otherwise, to a regional park or part thereof.

(8) Any territorial authority whose district is partly or wholly within the region of the council may contribute such amounts as it thinks fit towards the establishment, maintenance, development, or extension of regional parks or regional reserves or both.

(9) Any amount contributed under subsection (8) of this section by a territorial authority shall be in addition to any amount contributed from the district of that territorial authority by way of rates towards the establishment, maintenance, development, or extension of regional parks or regional reserves or both.

{ Note: For powers of Auckland Regional Council re Auckland Centennial Memorial Park see 1992 No 42, s.77 (2) in incorporated amendments. }

619. REGIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES--

"(1) If the regional council or united council, as the case may be (in this section referred to as the council), is of the opinion that any land (whether within or outside the region), not being land vested in a public body, is required for a park, public reserve, sports ground, camping ground, or place of public recreation or enjoyment for the benefit of the inhabitants of 2 or more constituent districts within a region, the council may purchase or otherwise acquire the land or take the land for a public work under [[the Public Works Act 1981]] as a regional park or regional reserve for any such purpose:

" Provided that no land outside the region may be so taken unless the territorial authority and the council, if any, within whose district or region the land is situated consent to the taking.

"(2) Any land which is vested in a public body may, if the council and the public body controlling the land so agree, be transferred to the council upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the council and the public body, or, in default of agreement, on such terms as may be determined by the Commission on the application of either party. Any land so transferred shall be held by the council subject to the trusts (if any) affecting the land at the time of the transfer, and the council shall have and may exercise all the powers and authorities in respect of the land that were possessed by the public body from which the land was transferred.

"(3) Section 601 of this Act, as far as it is applicable, shall apply with respect to every regional park and regional reserve established under this section."

619A AUCKLAND CATCHMENT LAND--

(1) The Auckland Regional Council shall continue to own all the catchment land in the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges owned by the Auckland Regional Council on the 1st day of January 1992 (except the Hays Creek catchment land formerly owned by the former Papakura City Council).

(2) Section 619 of this Act shall apply in relation to land to which subsection (1) of this section applies as if that land had been acquired under section 619 of this Act as a regional reserve.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in this Act,--

(a) Where the Auckland Regional Council has, at any time, whether before or after the commencement of this section, established a forest on any piece of catchment land in the Hunua Ranges, the Auckland Regional Council may grant forestry rights in respect of that piece of land:

(b) Repealed.

(4) Repealed.

(5) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, this section shall be subject to the Resource Management Act 1991.

(6) The granting of a lease pursuant to this section shall be deemed not to be a division of an allotment or a subdivision of land within the meaning of the Resource Management Act 1991.

(7) This section shall have effect notwithstanding anything in section 225(1A) of this Act.

"(b) The Auckland Regional Council may grant to the Auckland Regional Services Trust or to any company referred to in section 707ZF of this Act leases of or licences to use [or easement over] any part or parts of the land to which subsection (1) of this section applies and facilities thereon for purposes related to the supply of bulk water for such terms (not exceeding 100 years) and upon such other conditions as may be agreed between the parties, without further authority than this subsection."

"(4) Where any part of the land to which subsection (1) of this section applies is subject to a lease or licence granted under subsection (3) (b) of this section, section 619D of this Act shall not apply in respect of that part of that land."

619B AUCKLAND REGIONAL PARK AND RESERVES--

The Auckland Regional Council shall continue to have responsibility for the following regional parks and the following regional reserves:

- (a) Ambury Regional Park:
- (b) Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens:
- (c) Awhitu Regional Park:
- (d) Hunua Ranges Regional Parkland, including Waharau, Whakatiwai, Adams Gift Block, Oliver Block, and the Hunua Water Catchment Land:
- (e) Long Bay Regional Park:
- (f) Mahurangi Regional Park, including Mahurangi West, Te Muri Scott Point, and Mahurangi East:
- (g) Mount Smart (Rarotonga) Domain Recreation Reserve:
- (h) Omana Regional Park:
- (i) Shakespear Regional Park:
- (j) Tapapakanga Regional Park:
- (k) Tawharanui Regional Park:
- (l) Tawhitokino Regional Park:
- (m) Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland, including Muriwai, the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park, and the Waitakere Water Catchment Land:
- (n) Wenderholm Regional Park.

{ Note: Re holding of land for Auckland Centennial Memorial Park see 1992 No 42, s.77 (1) in incorporated amendments. }

619C (WELLINGTON REGIONAL PARKS--)

619D MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR REGIONAL PARK--

As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section, the Auckland Regional Council and the Wellington Regional Council--

- (a) Shall each prepare and approve, and thereafter maintain, in accordance with this Act, a management plan for each regional park vested in it; and
- (b) In the exercise of its functions in relation to a regional park, shall comply with the approved management plan for that regional park.

619E CONTENTS OF MANAGEMENT PLANS--

Except in the case of Regional Botanic Gardens, each management plan prepared under section 619D of this Act--

- (a) Shall provide for and ensure that the public is allowed the use, enjoyment, and benefit of the park to which it relates, and of any foreshore or water area adjoining it which is not used for water

supply purposes, in a manner and to an extent that is consistent with the conservation and protection of the intrinsic worth of the park; and

(b) To that end, but without limitation, may provide, as appropriate,

(i) For resource protection and management strategies; and

(ii) For the construction of roadways, paths, tracks, and lookouts; and

(iii) For parts of the regional park to be used for picnic grounds, parking places for vehicles and boats, camping grounds, launching and mooring places for boats, or for buildings and other facilities and amenities necessary for the public using the regional park or for the interpretation of the regional park to the public; and

(iv) For the planting of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, appropriate to the regional park and its functions or for soil conservation purposes; and

(v) For open parts of the regional park to be enclosed, laid down or renewed in grass and to be grazed; and

(vi) For public access to part or parts of the regional park to be restricted or prohibited.

619F PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF FIRST MANAGEMENT PLAN--

(1) Before preparing under section 619D of this Act in respect of any regional park the first management plan for that regional park, the regional council shall--

(a) Give public notice of its intention to do so; and

(b) In that notice, invite persons and organisations interested to send to it at its office, within a time, or not later than a date, specified in the notice, written comments or suggestions on the proposed plan.

(2) In preparing the plan, the regional council shall give full consideration to any comments or suggestions received in response to the invitation contained in the public notice.

619G PUBLIC NOTICE OF DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN--

(1) Every management plan prepared under section 619D of this Act shall be prepared first in draft form.

(2) When any management plan has been prepared in draft form, the regional council shall--

(a) Give public notice--

(i) Stating that the draft management plan is open for inspection at a place and at times specified in the notice; and

(ii) Calling upon persons and organisations interested to lodge with the regional council submissions on the contents of the draft plan by a specified date, being not less than 2 months after the first date of publication of the notice; and

(b) To the extent that it is practicable, send a copy of that public notice to all persons and organisations who or which had, pursuant to section 619F (1) (b) of this Act, sent written comments or suggestions to the regional council; and

(c) Make the draft plan available at its office for public inspection, free of charge, during ordinary office hours.

619H OBLIGATION TO CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS AND MAKE AMENDMENTS--

The regional council--

(a) Shall, after the date specified pursuant to section 619G (2) (a) (ii) of this Act, give full consideration to any submissions received in relation to the draft management plan, and, to that end, shall give every person and organisation who or which lodged a submission the opportunity of appearing before the regional council or committee or a subcommittee thereof in support of the submission; and

(b) Shall thereafter make such amendments to the draft management plan as it considers appropriate before approving the plan.

619I REVIEW AND CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT PLANS--

(1) A regional council that is, under section 619D of this Act, maintaining a management plan for a regional park may at any time undertake a comprehensive review of that management plan.

(2) The purpose of the review shall be to ensure that the management plan is adapted to changing circumstances or is in accordance with increased knowledge.

(3) Where 5 years have elapsed since any such management plan was first approved, the regional council shall undertake under this section a comprehensive review of that management plan.

(4) In conducting a comprehensive review under this section, the regional council shall follow the procedure specified in sections 619F to 619H of this Act.

(5) If at any time the regional council considers that a change to an approved management plan is justified, it may make a change to that approved management plan by following the procedure specified in sections 619F to 619H of this Act.

Appendix D: Present Licences

The table below identifies licences operating at the ARBG.

| Holder | Type | Term | Expiry Date | Right of renewal | Notes |
|---|---------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| R & M Subritzky | Licence | 3 Years | 2003 | Yes – 2 years | The Garden Café – food concessionaire. |
| The Ellerslie Flower and Garden Show Ltd. | Licence | 19 years, 364 days. | 2018 | Yes – 9 years, 364 days | Ellerslie Flower Show |
| Telecom | Licence | 6 years | 2007 | Yes – 2x6 years | Telecommunications facility. |
| Vodafone | Licence | 6 years | 2006 | Yes – 1x6 years | Telecommunications tower. |

The Ellerslie Flower Show uses an area known as the Northern Event Site which was developed specifically in 1998 as a venue for this event and is also available for other uses. The Northern Event Site is a part of the Gondwana Arboretum. Refer Maps 1 & 2.

Appendix E: Plan Preparation

ARC Parks and Recreation Committee Members: 1998 - 2001

Maureen Brooker
Gwen Bull *
Bill Burrill * (Committee Chairman)
Dianne Glenn *
Carl Harding *
Jack Henderson
Mike Lee
Ruth Norman *
Les Paterson
Philip Sherry
Patricia Thorp
Philip Warren (ARC Chairman)

* ARC Sub Committee for ARBG Management Plan Hearings and review.

ARC Staff and Project Team

Jack Hobbs – Manager ARBG.
Neil Olsen – Manager Parks Policy & Planning
Stuart Robertson – ARBG Staff representative
Kim Tunnicliffe – ARBG Staff representative
Mace Ward – Executive Project Officer

Eric Hamilton – erh Consultancy, Thames.

And many others who contributed their knowledge and expertise, including:
The Friends of ARBG Inc.
ARBG Staff
ARC Staff

Appendix F: Legal Description.

The Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens are located within the Manurewa Ward of Manukau City at Hill Road, Manurewa.

The property is adjacent to the Southern Motorway and stretches northward from Hill Road to Orams Road and Everglade Drive. The eastern boundary is to the rear of residential properties on Charles Prescott Drive with a further entrance from Katote Close.

The land consists of 64.7361 hectares:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 42.1576 hectares | Being Lot 2 Deposited Plan 59551 being part of Clendon's Grant C.T. 14B/1088 |
| 283 m ² | Being Section 3 Block XI Otahuhu Survey district contained in C.T. 1A/733 |
| 478 m ² | Contained in Section 16 Block XI Otahuhu Survey District C.T. 35A/1458 |
| 1945 m ² | Being lot 1 DP 49011 being part Clendon's Grant Block XI Otahuhu District Survey contained in C.T. 2030/48 |
| 2.0737 hectares | Being Part Lot 2 DP 33801 and being part Clendon's Grant contained in C.T. 1A/353. |
| 20.2342 hectares | Being Part Lot 3 on DP 59551 and being part Clendon's Grant contained in C.T. 14B/1045 |

Appendix G: References

Auckland Regional Council (1995) Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Management Plan, May 1995

Auckland Regional Council (1999) Auckland Regional Policy Statement. [Operative]

Auckland Regional Council (1999) Regional Parkland Acquisition Plan. Unpublished report.

Auckland Regional Council (2001) Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens Plant Collections Policy (2001)

Map Index

Map 1: Natural and Cultural Features and Existing Park Infrastructure

Map 2: Existing Park Infrastructure and Zones

Map 3: Major Development Zones, Infrastructure, Waterways and Plant Collections.