
JUBILEE PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

OPERATIVE AUGUST 1993

INTRODUCTION

Jubilee Park is located in the Hamilton City Suburb of Claudelands, between Brooklyn Road and Boundary Road adjacent to the Claudelands Showgrounds. The park is zoned as a recreational amenity reserve in the City Plan.

Jubilee Park (otherwise known as Claudelands Bush) is 5.2 hectares of kahikatea forest, a remnant of a much larger area of semi-swamp lowland forest which occupied the area prior to clearing and development.

The A & P Association gifted the (then named) Claudelands Bush to the Hamilton Borough in 1928 as the only remaining extensive kahikatea stand in the area. It had been depleted by logging since the 1860's and cattle had extensively damaged soil and vegetation in the area.

Jubilee Park is a scenic reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. A Management Plan is required under this Act to outline Council's general intentions for the development, use and maintenance of the park.

The purpose of the Management Plan is to identify a strategy for the future management of Jubilee Park to:

- ◆ maintain and enhance the forest remnant;



- ◆ provide opportunities for appropriate development and public use; and
- ◆ monitor the effects of public use on the well-being of the forest.

THE CONCEPT

An appropriate direction for the future use and development of the park is to maintain the forest in as near natural state as possible for the future use and enjoyment of the public.

Overall Aim

To actively manage the natural resources and public use of Jubilee Park to maintain and enhance the kahikatea forest remnant while facilitating public use.

THE FOREST REMNANT

OBJECTIVE 1

To maintain and enhance the natural characteristics of the kahikatea forest and its fauna.

Comment

Jubilee Park is a forest remnant of regional significance as one of few remaining examples of lowland kahikatea forest in the Waikato Ecological District and the most substantial remnant of native vegetation within the Hamilton City boundary. Lowland kahikatea forest is also nationally uncommon as the type grew mainly on land preferred for agricultural development.

Botanical Values

The original vegetation of the park was "semi-swamp forest" and was much larger in size. Only this fragment remains and development and drainage of the surrounding area has fundamentally changed the character of the habitat

Presently, 74 species are found in the forest. These plants are generally typical of those found in kahikatea forest and none is officially categorised as threatened.

There is a noticeable lack of some species which would normally be present in this forest type, especially groundcover species. Assessment indicates that the population structures of the key species in the forest have changed significantly. This is due to factors such as exposure to wind along the boundaries and a lowered water table.

Comparison of present day data with studies undertaken in 1933 and 1954 reveal a marked decline in the number of native plant species, from 125 in 1954 to 74 species in 1993. This decline is expected considering the small size of the remnant and the habitat changes which have occurred.

It is considered that groundcover plants and shrubs could be re-introduced to the forest remnant. The problems described above could be addressed with a

forest enhancement programme including wind protection, weed control, a replanting programme and measures to recreate the poorly drained micro-habitats necessary for successful re-introduction of these species.

Threats to the long term survival of the kahikatea forest include the following:

- ◆ Infestation by exotic weeds from outside the park which compete with the indigenous plants.
- ◆ Pressure from people such as trampling the groundcover species, chopping trees and dumping garden rubbish in the park.
- ◆ The “edge effect” caused by the prevailing wind which damages the trees and changes the humidity in the forest. The exposed nature of the margins of the park has resulted in a significant change in the vegetation which is evident for approximately 20m into the park. The most adversely affected margin of the park is that bordered by Claudelands Showgrounds.
- ◆ Colonisation of canopy gaps by broadleaved species will eventually change the nature and species composition of the forest which is presently dominated by kahikatea.
- ◆ Lowering of the water table in the park could further dry out the soil and result in conditions unsuited to the habitat requirements of kahikatea forest, in particular, groundcover and shrub species originally found in the park.

Wildlife Values

A range of native and introduced animal and bird life is found in Jubilee Park. In 1982, a study revealed 44 species of native land snails and 23 species of arboreal dwelling snails in the park. Protection of the forest will ensure that the wildlife habitat is also maintained.

Introduced pests may have an adverse effect on the natural values of the forest in the future.

Policies

To protect the forest from wind damage.

To control infestation and adverse effects in the park by exotic weeds and introduced pests.

To encourage persistent regrowth of indigenous groundcover species in the park.

To provide for replacement of kahikatea in the park, where practical and appropriate, by an effective replanting programme of canopy gaps.

To control adverse impacts on the park resulting from public use.

Implementation

Provide a wind barrier along the Claudelands Showgrounds boundary of the park.

Continue the programme for control of exotic weeds as required. The programme should be targeted to maximise its effectiveness.

Undertake a planting programme with advice from a qualified specialist on appropriate species, locations and maintenance programmes.

USE OF THE PARK

OBJECTIVE 2

To provide an expanded range of opportunities for appropriate public use of Jubilee Park, particularly in education, which is within the financial means of Council.

Comment

Conservation Value

The park is significant as a representative example of lowland kahikatea forest.

Education

The park provides an important outdoor educational resource for schools. Students benefit from:

- ◆ the experience of being in a mature forest environment;
- ◆ learning about the complex processes and inter-relationships of a forest ecosystem;
- ◆ a better understanding of the cultural and historical significance of the forest; and,
- ◆ increased awareness of the impacts of public use.

Teachers also appreciate the opportunity for a practical outdoors class. There is the added convenience of a study unit based on the park for students. This is available from the Waikato Museum Education Centre.

General Public Use

The park, located in an urban residential area, provides relief from the sights, smells and sounds of the adjacent busy roads and the surrounding built environment.

The park is part of the network of green spaces scattered throughout the City which cater to a variety of public uses.

Access to the park is available from Brooklyn Road and Boundary Road. There is a pathway through the park from these points. Parking is available on both street frontages.

Public access within the park is constrained by a fenced pathway approximately 1.5m wide. Fences were originally constructed to protect the vegetation from adverse impacts of public use such as trampling of groundcover species. However, the fenced path limits the experience of the forest somewhat as there is little opportunity for the visitor to explore different parts of the park, or rest awhile to enjoy the forest environment. It would be appropriate to improve public access in the park in a way that protects the vegetation.

Currently, facilities in the park are minimal, comprising 3 picnic tables on the boundaries of the park and some rubbish bins. The facilities are of a low standard. Use of existing facilities is currently low.

The few signs in the park are limited to the name of the park at the access points. It would be appropriate to have information and interpretive aids in the park to inform people about the park and raise awareness of the threats to the future well-being of the park.

Any information signs should be in a simple style and of sturdy construction to blend into the forest environment. Due to the potential for vandalism, signs would be maintained in a legible state and be constructed from affordable, easily replaceable parts.

Cultural and Historical Values

Written and photographic records describe the forest in its original state and provide insight to the lives of early settlers in the Waikato. These records illustrate the scale of development and change to the forest and the surrounding Claudelands area.

For Maori, the forest was an invaluable resource, providing shelter, food and a range of materials.

Ngati Haua was the tribe which originally occupied the area east of the Waikato River.

Policies

To promote use of the park as an outdoor education resource for schools.

To provide access into the park with suitable management and control of potential adverse effects on the vegetation.

To promote the general amenity value of the park to local residents and visitors.

To raise awareness of the park and increase support from residents of Hamilton for the future well-being of its natural resources.

To recognise and take account of the cultural value of the forest to Maori and, in particular, tangata whenua.

To promote awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the park.

Implementation

Investigate the feasibility of constructing appropriate accessways through the park with provision of suitable viewing bays and seating to provide access to more areas while protecting the vegetation.

Provide and maintain adequate public facilities in the park, including information and interpretive aids, walks, fences, seating and rest areas.

Liaise closely with the School of Education Officer, Waikato Museum of Art and History to:

- ◆ review existing educational material on the park to form a complete study unit, and
- ◆ promote awareness of the forest and availability of the study unit as a package to schools in the area.

Displays and pamphlets could be used to inform people about the various features of the bush (historical, cultural, ecological, etc.) promote the range of opportunities offered by the forest and to raise awareness of the threats and issues faced by the forest.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK

OBJECTIVE 3

To monitor the health of the vegetation and the ongoing effects of public use on the forest and manage the resource and public use accordingly.

Comment

An appropriate management regime is required to enable Council to address the problems of Jubilee Park and pursue opportunities for public use and development of the forest.

Council needs adequate information to access the nature and significance of changes to the kahikatea forest. A monitoring programme is necessary to

identify the implications of current trends for the future of the park.

Management of the park to achieve the goal and objectives outlined in this plan will require allocation of Council resources. Budgetary constraints should be identified and priorities set to ensure effective and efficient allocation of Council resources. Commercial and community support for Council policies should be encouraged.

Policies

To monitor groundwater levels at key points on the periphery of the park to determine seasonal range and any long-term trends.

To monitor successional trends of the forest, including density and distribution of species.

To formulate priorities for resource allocation purposes for both capital expenditure and on-going maintenance expenses.

Implementation

Monitor groundwater conditions to determine correlation between the groundwater regime and the state of the forest.

Undertake a trial irrigation in one part of the park over a period of 5 years.

Monitor the species composition and distribution over time and make comparisons with past and present information about the changing state of the forest.

SITE DEFINITION

The following schedule of land is covered by this management plan.

<u>Legal Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
Lot 1 DPS 67080	Held in trust by Hamilton City Council for Recreation Reserve
Classification	Scenic Reserve (Gazette 1994/1120)

SELECTED REFERENCES

Boase, M R *The Flora and Vegetation of Jubilee Park (Claudelands's Bush), Hamilton*. Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter No. 4, April 1985.

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Clarkson, B (1993) *Jubilee Park ("Claudelands Bush")*. Unpublished Paper.

Gudex, M C (1954) *The Native Flora of Claudelands's Bush*. Unpublished Paper.

Timmins, S (1988) *A Monitoring Programme to Assess Vegetation Changes with Water Table Manipulation at Whewell's Bush Scientific Reserve, Hamilton*. Science & Research Internal Report No. 36. Wellington: Department of Conservation.

Wright, J *Claudelands's Bush: An Historical and Environmental Study*. Unpublished Report.

Further enquiries

Phone (07) 8386622 or

Write to: The Unit Manager
Parks & Gardens Unit
Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton

Offices situated in the Council Building in Gardens Place.