



ESCAPE EDUCATE ENCOUNTER

Waiwhakareke
**NATURAL HERITAGE PARK
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

PREPARED FOR
HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Kaitautoko

The Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park would not be possible without the input of funding partners, stakeholders, and thousands of volunteers. These groups have contributed to biodiversity monitoring, planting days and funding. Such is the success and involvement of the community, that Arbor Day plantings at Waiwhakareke are the largest community planting days in the City. Planting has been funded largely by grants secured by Tui 2000 Inc.

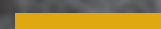




VISION

TO CREATE A WORLD CLASS
ECOLOGICAL ISLAND
IN AN URBAN
ENVIRONMENT

Te Kahu Ao Tuuroa o Rangitara



INTRODUCTION



Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is the flagship project for biodiversity in the City. This science-based, community-led project, represents a vision of bringing back Hamilton's native flora and fauna.

The park, with its strong link to the Hamilton Zoo, will provide visitors with an inner-city escape, free to explore nature and be a part of the parks growing future, while providing opportunities to learn about, connect, engage and enjoy our natural and cultural heritage. In its 14th year of restoration planting, and with half of the area planted, the drive from the local community is to take the development of the park to the next stage and open it to the public.

The guiding principles of Waiwhakareke are accessibility, biodiversity, connectivity, education and identity. This Development Plan provides the design vision, objectives and concepts for the next steps in the development of the park.

TE KAHU AO TUUROA O RANGITARA

This name represents all natural things weaved together under the cloak of the ancestor Rangitara.

CULTURAL THREADS

Restoring Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park to be a self-sustaining, pest free, ecosystem that represents pre-1840's Hamilton, and restores the mauri of this important landmark. This will be achieved by the re-creation of a small part of the once significant kahikatea-pukatea forest "Te Raukaakaa", the protection of the puna (springs) and puna paru (the black iron-rich muds), planting of important flora such as flax, and predator control to encourage native fauna to return and flourish.

To protect these taonga, and the restoration of Waiwhakareke, a raahui over the area protects the site to allow restoration.

Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park provides an outdoor classroom to restore the traditional knowledge (maatauranga maaori) of collection and use of the natural resources provided by the wetland.

COLOURS

A distinctive Waiwhakareke brand telling a story about the site.

● Puna Paru (black)

The wetland's peat soils contain black iron-rich mud traditionally used for dyeing flax piupiu.

● Raureekau (yellow)

The outer and inner bark from the raureekau (*Coprosma grandifolia*) is scraped away to reveal a yellowy-orange layer. This layer is stripped from the sapwood and boiled in water. When muka is placed in this dye, the muka is dyed to a rich golden-yellow.



STAGING

ZOO MASTER PLAN

WAIWHAKAREKE NATURAL HERITAGE PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN

LONG TERM PLAN

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1

PLANTING AND STRUCTURAL WORK TO DATE

External funding for plants
Fencing
Maintenance and service tracks
Over half the park planted
Park maintenance
Photography
Research
Signage
Volunteer contribution

2

OPEN WAIWHAKAREKE NATURAL HERITAGE PARK TO THE COMMUNITY

Paths and boardwalks
Planting, lake monitoring, testing and research
Shared entry precinct project between Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke Natural
Heritage Park
Toilet facilities
Viewing platforms

3

DEVELOP AN ENTRANCE PRECINCT CONNECTING HAMILTON ZOO AND WAIWHAKAREKE NATURAL HERITAGE PARK

Accessible café
Education centre
New car parks
Pedestrian zone connecting Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park
Planting, lake monitoring, testing and research
Visitor arrival areas

4

COMPLETE A WORLD CLASS ECOLOGICAL ISLAND WITHIN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Additional car park, entrance and toilet facilities
Additional paths and boardwalks
Maori interpretation signage and pou
Planting, lake monitoring, testing and research
Predator proof fencing surrounding the park

5

CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Enhanced education programmes
Introduce threatened species
Planting, lake monitoring, testing and research
Potential to create a breed and release programme between Hamilton Zoo and
Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



ACCESSIBILITY

Tomonga

Providing access to the park.
Enhancing and promoting recreational use from diverse user groups.
Promoting passive recreation.



BIODIVERSITY

Rerenga Rauropi

The 65.5 hectare park is a flagship project in Hamilton.
A vital connection with the surrounding lakes, foreshores and Waikato River.
Reintroduction of past flora and fauna will eventually create a self-sustaining habitat.



CONNECTIVITY

Tuuhono

Connecting people to nature.
Interpretation signage.
Community volunteers.
Promoting strong connections to surrounding destinations.



EDUCATION

Maatauranga

Strong emphasis on education and research programmes.
Outdoor class rooms.
Linkages with the Hamilton Zoo's education program.
Public participation in the restoration of the park.



IDENTITY

Tuakiri

Capturing the uniqueness of the park.
Reflecting cultural heritage.
Highlighting it's extraordinary aspects will improve the parks identity locally and throughout the wider region.

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

MAAORI USE PRE 1800S

- An important landmark for food and resource gathering.
- Bird life was abundant and hunted for their feathers and meat.
- The forest in the area was named Te Raukaakaa (many parrots) where kaakaa were hunted for their prized red-brown under-wing feathers.

EARLY 1800S

- Waiwhakareke and surrounding land shared by Ngaati Koura, Ngaati Ruru and Ngaati Ngamurikaitaua. These three hapuu resided on the shores of Rotokauri in a paa called Te Uhi.
- Pre-European history identifies the Rotokauri area, including Waiwhakareke, of lands gifted to Tamainupo by ancestor Mahanga.
- Christian missionaries established missions, coordinated land clearance, and introduced wheat production and kauri gum digging industries to local Maaori.

1850

- Maaori operating flax and flour mills.

1860

- European population established in the area. Land drainage of the peat lands to enable pastoral farming. Land clearance continued.

1930-1970

- Land used for dairy farming with no stock exclusion from lake.

1975

- Council purchased area and grazing continued under lease.

1989

- Waiwhakareke becomes part of Hamilton City (10th expansion of the city's boundary).

PAST

1800S

1900S

2003

- Council declares intent to devote its land holding in Waiwhakareke to the development of a Natural Heritage Park.

2004

- Concept plans for Waiwhakareke approved. Planting around the lake begins.

2008

- 14 years of restoration planting has led to over half of the park's area being planted.
- Waiwhakareke Development Plan update drafted to guide a cohesive design approach in the next steps of the park's future.

2011

- Operative Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Management Plan adopted.

2019

- Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park open for the public to experience and enjoy.

FUTURE STAGING

- Complete a world class ecological island within an urban environment.
- Flora and fauna restored and protected to mirror the pre-1800s landscape.
- Connection to the Zoo education programme.
- World class visitor destination.

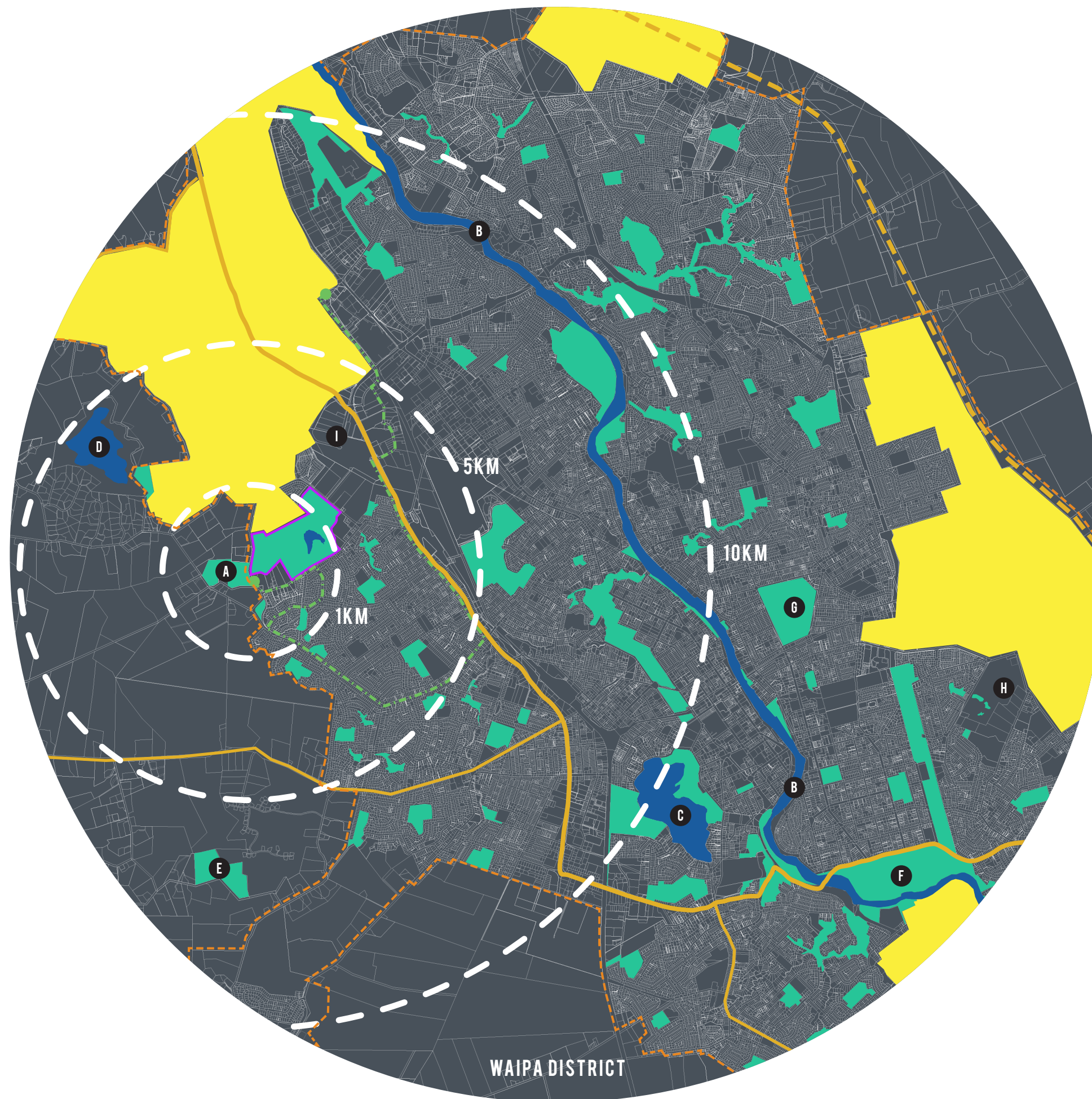
2004

FUTURE

CONTEXT

Hamilton City exists in an extensively modified wider environment consisting predominately of exotic species dominated ecosystems. What is left of Hamilton's indigenous natural heritage now exists across less than 20 hectares of high quality indigenous remnants. The restoration of Waiwhakareke will involve the reconstruction of Hamilton's original ecosystems that once existed across the unique ridges, hillslopes, wetlands, and peat lakes of Hamilton City. At 65.5 hectares the park will provide an important stepping stone for native fauna into the network of green spaces and forests within and around the city.

Taking its place as one of Hamilton's most important parks, alongside the Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton Lake Domain and Hamilton's Significant Natural Reserves, the park will provide unique opportunities for research and education in the City.



KEY

-  Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park
-  Wider Hamilton City Boundary
-  State Highways
-  Proposed Waikato Expressway
-  Site Specific Bus Route
-  Distances from Entry Precinct (1, 5 and 10km)
-  Open Area/Parks
-  Water Bodies
-  Future Growth Areas
-  Hamilton Zoo
-  Waikato River
-  Lake Rotoroa - Hamilton Lake Domain
-  Lake Rotokauri
-  Taitua Arboretum
-  Hamilton Gardens
-  Jubilee Bush
-  The University of Waikato
-  Wintec Rotokauri Campus

WAIPA DISTRICT

ECOLOGY



rimu
(*Dacrydium cupressinum*)



kaponga
(*Cyathea dealbata*)



koowhai
(*Sophora microphylla*)



kaanuka
(*Kunzea robusta*)



kahikatea
(*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)



putaputaweetaa
(*Carpodetus serratus*)



harakeke
(*Phormium tenax*)



rautahi
(*Carex geminata*)



raupoo
(*Typha orientalis*)



baumea
(*Machaerina rubiginosa*)

RIDGETOP
ZONE

HILLSLOPE
ZONE

SEMI-SWAMP
ZONE

WETLAND/
SWAMP
ZONE

LAKE
ZONE



weetaapunga
(*Deinacrida*)

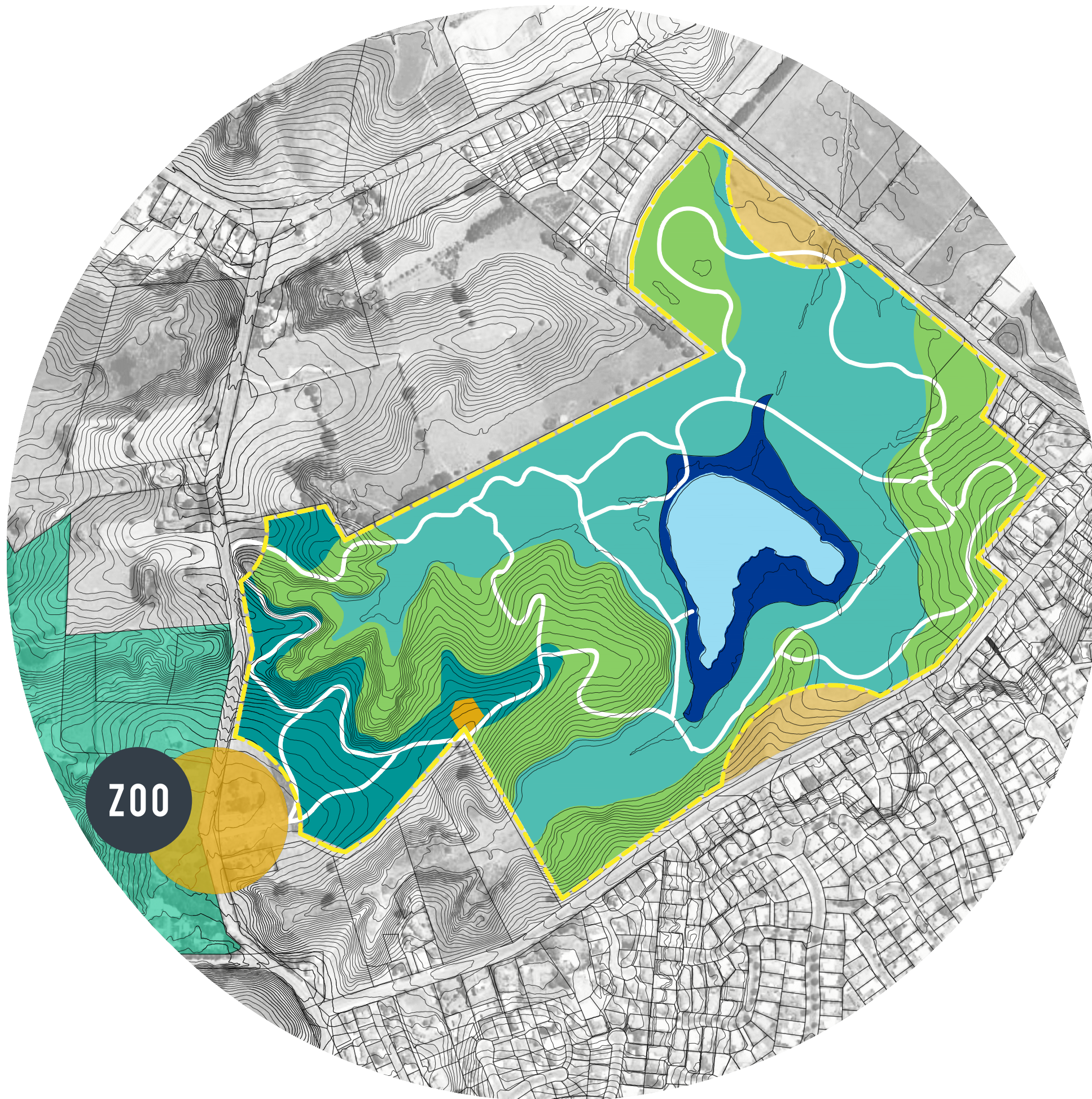


kiwi
(*Apteryx*)




Creating a self-sustaining habitat sanctuary which represents the original ecosystem of the Hamilton basin, is undertaken by planting site specific species throughout the seven land forms, the five main land types are Ridgetop, Hillslope, Semi-Swamp, Wetland/Swamp and Lake Zone.

Along with the revegetation, a predator proof fence will enable the development of a translocation program with the Hamilton Zoo, reintroducing fauna into this unique predator proof sanctuary.

This site has a major connection to the Hamilton Zoo with a shared entry precinct under development.



KEY

-  Predator Proof Fence
-  Proposed Public Open Space
-  Pathway Network

Planting Zones

-  Ridgetop Zone
-  Hilltop Zone
-  Semi-swamp Zone
-  Wetland/Swamp Zone
-  Lake Zone

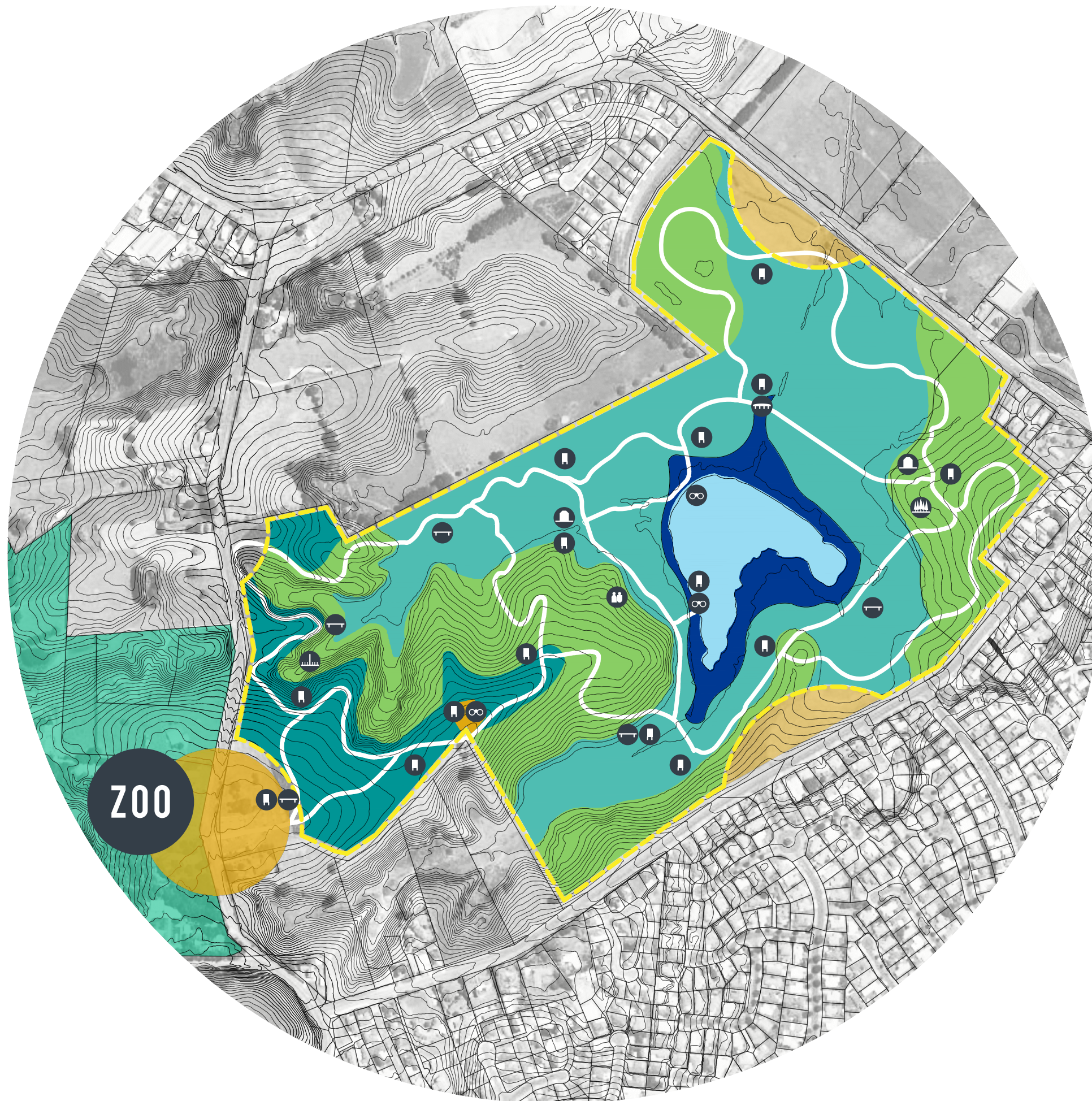
INFRASTRUCTURE














Infrastructure is to be incorporated within the park to enhance the users overall experience and promote a dynamic user group. For the amenity of visitors, a well-connected pathway network around the lake, with viewing platforms and observation towers, will provide a range of different ways for visitors to experience the surrounding landscape. The pathway network will provide connections to entrances that incorporate community parks and the greater surrounding areas. Way-finding signage will guide visitors throughout the park, providing information and having a strong emphasis on education and historical context.

The Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Development Plan incorporates:

- Ecological restoration with Ridgetop Hillslope, Semi-swamp, Wetland/Swamp and Lake Zone plantings.
- A pathway network, a combination of formal and informal treatments (gravel and boardwalks) providing accessibility, safety, comfort and experience of Waiwhakareke.
- Viewing platforms and observation towers providing views over the park and lake.
- Toilet facilities positioned centrally in the park.
- Way-finding signage adjacent to the pathway network, connecting visitors to all aspects of the park.
- Cultural values, through the combination of a Pou (positioned within the ridgetop planting) and Te Raukaakaa (kahikatea forest), recognising the pre-European landscape.
- The agricultural history and repurposing of farming remnants.
- A shared entry precinct for Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke.
- A continuous predator proof fence on the sites perimeter.



KEY

-  Predator Proof Fence
-  Proposed Public Open Space
-  Pathway Network
-  Footbridge
-  Pou
-  Seating and Amenities
-  Te Raukaakaa (Kahikatea Forest)
-  Toilet Facilities
-  Viewing Platforms
-  Way-finding Signage
-  Agricultural Heritage Remnants

Planting Zones

-  Ridgetop Zone
-  Hilltop Zone
-  Semi-swamp Zone
-  Wetland/Swamp Zone
-  Lake Zone

VISUALISATION




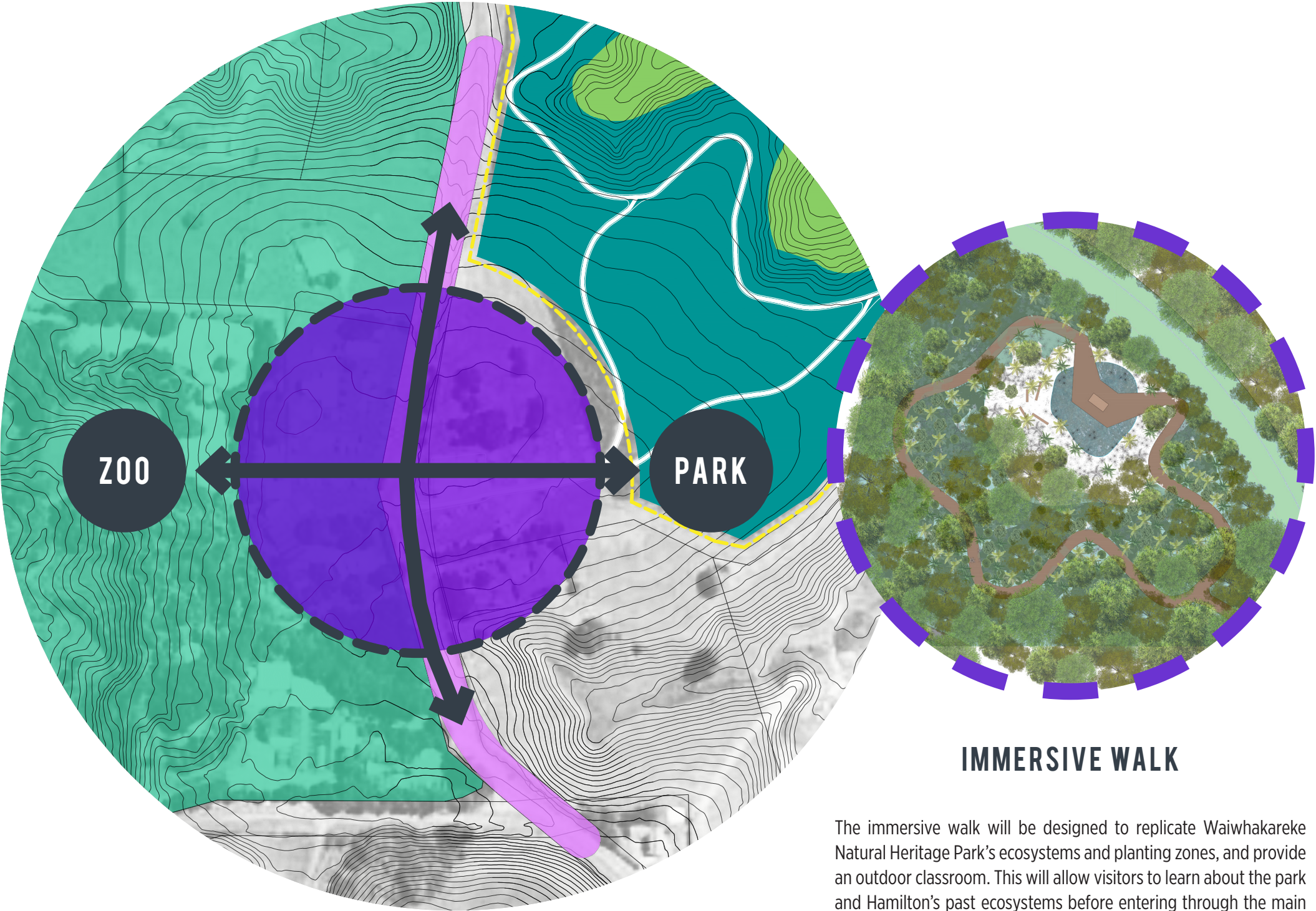


SHARED ENTRY PRECINCT

Waiwhakareke's entrance is adjacent to the Hamilton Zoo's entrance. Separated by Brymer Road the two entries are being developed to become an all-encompassing precinct for both destinations providing shared facilities and a uniform, multi-purpose domain. This will enhance the importance and future partnership between Waiwhakareke and the Zoo.

KEY

- Shared Entry Precinct
 - ⋮ Immersive Walk
To be included in the Shared Entry Precinct
 - Brymer Road Shared Pedestrian and Vehicle Zone
- 



IMMERSIVE WALK

The immersive walk will be designed to replicate Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park's ecosystems and planting zones, and provide an outdoor classroom. This will allow visitors to learn about the park and Hamilton's past ecosystems before entering through the main entry. Interpretation signage here will inform visitors about the flora and fauna present in the park.



For more information visit www.hamilton.govt.nz/waiwhakareke

