

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“The strategy should focus on the things that unite us in this city.” Former Councillor Alan Johnson
- Sounding Board Meeting

Making Connections is the strategic plan for Manukau City Council’s parks for the next 10 years and beyond. The purpose of the plan is to provide a clear direction for the future provision and development of the parks network.

The central theme of the strategy is **Making Connections**:

- The making of physical connections (or links) between parks across the city
- Making cultural connections in Manukau City and linking different communities
- Communities making connections with the natural environment.

Five main values are reflected in a thriving parks network. These values underpin this strategy and the actions proposed to implement it:

1. Recreation & Sport - the value of parks as places that offer easy access to a variety of enjoyable outdoor activities
2. Ecology - the value of parks as habitats for plants and animals
3. Landscape - the value of parks as landforms offering visual appreciation and a sense of place
4. Heritage - the value of parks as places that identify with the past and protect it for the future
5. Community - the value of parks as places of cultural and spiritual refreshment.

These values can be found throughout 12 goals that set out *what* Council wants to achieve and *why*. A policy statement and a number of action plans then describe *how* the goals will be achieved.

There are goals and action plans for each of the main park groupings:

1. Premier Parks - our major parks
2. Neighbourhood Parks - our local parks
3. Sports Parks - the home of organised sport and sports clubs
4. Community Purpose Reserves - parks set aside for community groups
5. Esplanade Reserves - linear parks around the coastline and along major streams.

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There are goals and action plans for generic outcomes across these park groups:

6. Connecting Parks & Communities
7. Ecological Restoration
8. Heritage Protection
9. Environmental Education & Interpretation.

There are goals and action plans to support ways of working:

10. Working in Partnership
11. Incorporating Tikanga Maori.

Lastly there is a goal that links the strategy to:

12. Land Acquisition & Access.

The restoration of natural and cultural landscapes features strongly in the strategy, particularly the restoration of riparian corridors. These are the major streams that will create many of the key connections. Manukau's extensive and varied coastline is also a central component of the strategy with an emphasis on the potential of the restored Manukau Harbour, the body of water from which the city gets its name. The importance of community and volunteer involvement is recognised as an important vehicle for achieving the goals of the strategy. The strategy also recognises the value of participating in regional initiatives.

Making Connections has taken *Tomorrow's Manukau*¹ as its reference point and attempts to give life to the City's aspirations in the context of its parks. The Manukau of tomorrow will have a rich legacy of parks for future generations to enjoy and which will contribute significantly to our environmental health, community cohesion and economic strength.

The strategy does not make new demands on funding. Rather it focuses existing funding into strategic priority areas. However, funding reviews in some instances may allow the swifter achievement of some goals.

The Manukau Parks Asset Management Plan² will give operational life to the strategy. Park management plans³ will equally provide the operational policy direction for parks within the overall strategic and statutory framework.

Action proposed in **Making Connections** will be reviewed in the Council's Annual Plan⁴ process. Projects have been prioritised to aid strategy implementation. Regular review over the next ten years will ensure that the document and the vision remain alive and relevant to the needs and aspirations of Manukau's citizens.

1. *Tomorrow's Manukau 2001 - 2010* is a vision and strategic plan for Manukau City.
2. Manukau Parks Asset Management Plan is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act and sets out how MCC will manage its parks assets so as to achieve strategic goals.
3. Park Management Plans are a statutory requirement of the Reserves Act 1977 and provide policy guidelines for the use and development of reserves.
4. MCC Annual Plans set out Council's actions and funding requirements in any given year.