

PARKS IN TOMORROW'S MANUKAU

Parks that provide a sense of connection by linking the environmental and cultural diversity of Manukau City

The need for a parks strategy was first identified in 1996 as part of Council's *Strategic Directions*⁵ review. That document recognised the contribution of parks to community wellbeing and to the protection of Manukau's natural and cultural heritage. Long-term objectives set out in *Strategic Directions* included the creation of green networks across the city for recreation and for ecological benefits.

These objectives remain equally valid today and are further reinforced in the City's new strategic plan, *Tomorrow's Manukau*. In turn they are at the heart of **Making Connections**.

In the same way that *Tomorrow's Manukau* is a watershed that marks the coming of age for a city that is still relatively young, so **Making Connections** is a watershed for our parks. Together these documents demonstrate the contribution of parks to a strong economy, to community health and cohesion and to a sustainable environment.

Tomorrow's Manukau seeks the following outcomes for the CITY:

- Educated and knowledgeable people
- Vibrant and strong communities
- A place that's easy to get around
- Healthy and economically secure people
- Sustainable Manukau.

The strongest links between *Tomorrow's Manukau* and **Making Connections** can be found in three key outcome areas:

- Vibrant and strong communities
- Healthy and economically secure people
- Sustainable Manukau.

The contribution of parks to these key outcome areas can be found in the following specific goals within *Tomorrow's Manukau*:

- A city that people are proud to live in and call their own
- Places, spaces and occasions for people to express their culture
- Safer communities
- Fit and active people

5. *Strategic Directions 1996-2010* the City's former strategic plan has been superseded by *Tomorrow's Manukau*.

Parks in Tomorrow's Manukau

- A greener city where people and the environment nurture each other*
- Quality living conditions
- Our natural and historic treasures protected
- People working together to achieve results.

Making Connections takes each of these goals and sets out to deliver the actions in the context of Manukau's parks. (*This Goal on page 45 of *Tomorrow's Manukau* provides the key Action that **Making Connections** builds upon).

The vision for Manukau's parks is one of an abundance of high quality spaces for recreation and sport, and a city criss-crossed by a network of safe walking and cycling routes which also support a thriving urban wildlife and improved water quality. The predominantly urban communities have easy access to an extensive coastline and to more remote destinations of native bush or countryside experiences. The 'green city' concept is supported by local communities that take an active role in the network's development and care, and by businesses that benefit from a positive city image. Finally, the parks reinforce the Pacific nature of Manukau's geography and people.

