

Mahurangi East Regional Park - Opening Sequence

Auckland Council has provided the following information on the plans for opening the extension to Mahurangi East Regional Park.

The primary focus at Mahurangi East will be maintaining the undeveloped natural character of the park, to provide a remote visitor experience where the landscape and scenic views are the attraction. Pedestrian access into the park for informal walking will be the only recreational activity available in the short term.

Land access into the park

A public access plan is currently being developed to provide pedestrian, cycle and future vehicle access into the park from the north. This will be achieved through a staged process, as considerable investment will be required to upgrade the fencing and develop entrance gates and laybys along the proposed roadway, before establishing car parking, visitor facilities and separate walking and cycleway tracks to enable multi-modal access into the park to a certain point. The land access to park will be opened once the public access plan has been approved and the necessary infrastructure is in place.

Early priorities are:

- Prepare a spatial plan for the development of future recreational activities
- Create an arrival area and installation of visitor information/ infrastructure e.g. toilets/ car-parking
- Improve operational vehicle access to baches and infrastructure.
- Investigate provision for pedestrian and e-bike and bicycle access to and within the park
- Investigate utilising the existing dwelling near Big Bay for bach accommodation. This faces issues in the short term due to roading access and current septic disposal system.

Planned activities for the three years from 1 July 2024

Year One

- Investigate walking/cycling visitor access and infrastructure (no public vehicle access)
- Make basic arrival area plan at entry to Regional Parks actual to inform layout
- Single composting toilet as temporary ablutions for visitors
- Signage to and inside parkland including notice board/ track markers/ access rules/ no entry signage for private blocks
- Investigate easement rules for walking/ cycling and eventual public vehicle access
- Investigate source of sewage treatment/ water supply and electricity if necessary at arrival area
- Decide on position of/ obtain price for vehicle autogate in consultation with neighbours

Year Two

- Install vehicle autogate
- Install walking/cycling visitor access and infrastructure (no public vehicle access)
- Install temporary composting toilet, signage as above
- Plan arrival area/ roading requirements/ permanent toilet block/ sewage plant based on outcome of Year One investigations
- Improve operational access past Becrofts for access to Parks land and baches

Year Three

- Construction of arrival area, upgrading of entry road and internal operational road, installation of toilet and infrastructure.

New bush tracks

Later in the year work will commence on the new bush tracks which are highlighted on the attached map too. An estimated 18km of tracks will be available once the park opens, including the easement access and coastal loops. Red on the map indicates current tracks and blue will be the ones that will be worked on later in the year.



