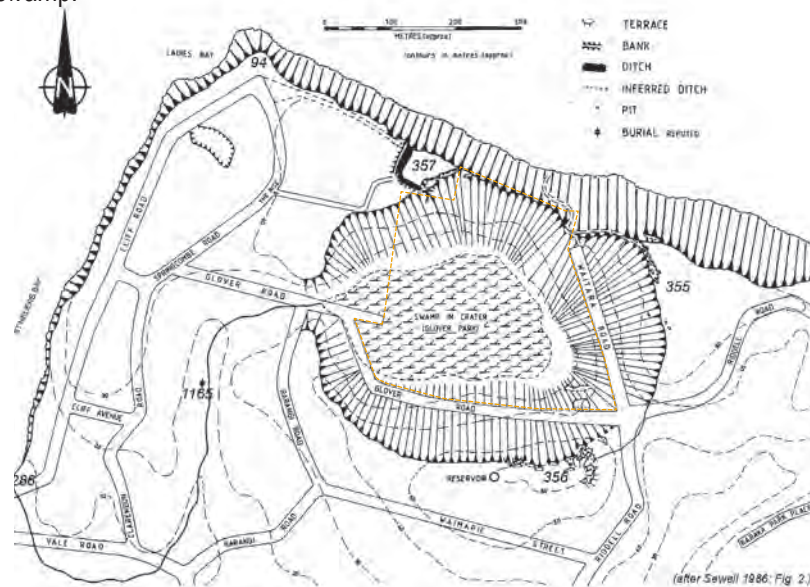


2.2_Glover Park Site Analysis

2.2.1_Background

History

The Glover Park area and the West Tamaki Headland is the site of an ancient pa complex, known as Te Pane o Horoiwi, or the 'Head of Horoiwi'. Horoiwi arrived from Hawaiki, on the Tainui waka marrying in to the local people here while the Tainui continued to Kawhia. The pa included flattened areas for living, food store pits and defensive ditches. Glover Park is located on the eastern side of Te Pane O Horoiwi pa which is recorded in the Site Record Files of the New Zealand Archaeological Association as site R11/357. Although largely destroyed by development visible evidence of associated archaeological features associated with the pa remain visible today.⁷ The playing fields are located on the remnant of a volcanic explosion crater and swamp that formed a seasonal shallow lake or swamp.



7 Foster, R. (2010) *Glover Park Sand Carpet Archaeological Assessment*. Pg 4

Originally in the 19th century the area was part of the Dalziell Claim but was merged into the Kohimarama Block that the crown purchased from Ngati Paoa in 1841. Glover Park is located in original allotments 21 and 22 which were in private ownership until in 1928 the area was acquired by Auckland City Council. In 1953 part of the crater was drained and Glover Road extended across the southern edge of the crater.⁸ The former crater swamp was filled in during the 1950's to form a public sports field.

Zoning

The reserve is divided into two recreational open space activity zones:

Open Space 1 (Conservation) – applies to the elevated north western portion of the park in the vicinity of the former pa site. This area is scheduled as a place of archaeological and geological significance.⁹

Objective: To provide for the conservation and protection of areas of particular scenic, heritage, natural or habitat value.

Open Space 3 (Organised Recreation) – applies to the remainder of the reserve including open playing fields and the elevated slopes to the south, east and north east.

Objective: To provide for organised sports and recreation activities which are compatible with the physical characteristics of the land and which do not impact adversely on the amenity and quality of the surrounding environment.

Additional Limitations

The northern edge along cliff line falls with the Coastal Management Area and adjoins the Cliff Line Tree Amenity Area which for which the District Plan provides additional protection for trees due to their environmental and visual sensitivity.

8 Foster, R. (2010) *Glover Park Sand Carpet Archaeological Assessment*. Pgs 4-6

9 Auckland City Council (1999) *District Plan (Isthmus Section) 3A: B15-06*

2.2.2_Landscape Characteristics

Landform | Physical Features

Although significantly modified, the geological origins of the area remain obvious today with the often steeply sloping sides of the crater almost completely encircling the park and providing a strong sense of containment. Today the only area where the top of the former crater remains within the park is along the northern edge of the reserve. Here it forms the top of the cliff line, which falls, steeply toward Gentleman's Bay at its base. The central part of the reserve is characterised by the flat expanse of the playing fields created by the filling of the former crater swamp.

Views

The former crater slopes extend beyond the reserve creating a natural amphitheatre, which is occupied by established residential development. As a result there is comprehensive surveillance of the park from the surrounding area. Similarly, significant views from within the reserve to the surrounding area are limited by this landform, except for the elevated ridgeline above the sea cliff above Gentleman's Bay. This location affords impressive panoramic views out to Rangitoto, Browns and Motuihe Islands and the Hauraki Gulf beyond. In the opposite direction, although somewhat contained, are views back across Auckland toward One Tree Hill/ Maungakiekie.

Vegetation Framework

Although there is relatively extensive planting across the crater slopes, the planting is fragmented and lacks any defined structure or consistency. The species composition is varied with the main trees present including acmena (*Syzygium smithii*), pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), Norfolk Island hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), grevillia (*Grevillia* spp), willows (*Salix* spp), Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria hetrophylla*), brush box (*Lophostemon conferta*), gums (*Eucalyptus* spp), ornamental cherries (*Prunus* spp) and swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Many of the trees appear to be struggling with the site conditions.

Native species are more represented on the northern slopes, both intermixed with amenity planting, and in a sizeable grouping in the north west corner of the site. The vegetative composition in this area continues the mix of coastal species commonly found along the sea cliffs locally, with the dominant trees being karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) and pohutukawa. The understorey in this area is comprised of a mixture of indigenous coastal shrub species mixed with some exotic weeds such as privet, with gorse (*Ulex europaea*) around the exposed edges. Also characteristic of the northwestern boundary are numerous garden escapees and a variety of herbaceous weeds along this edge where the boundary between the reserve and adjacent residential properties lacks definition.

2.2.3_Use and Landscape Character Areas

Active recreation within the reserve includes soccer in the winter and cricket and athletics during the summer. The passive activities include recreational walking and the use of the playground. The activities combined with the natural features of the reserve combine to create a number of landscape character areas:

1_Vehicle Entrance and Carpark

The formal park entrance and carpark is located on a flat area at the western end of the reserve. The carpark is characterised by an open expanse of seal with no specimen trees or garden areas to provide any softening or visual relief in this area. The carpark is contained by timber vehicle restraints and sloping grass road berms around the southern and western sides. Immediately to the east of the carpark is a children's playground, changing rooms, athletics equipment storage and public toilet facilities.

2_Central Sportsfields

The central sportsfields occupy the flat central part of the park. In the winter the area has space for four soccer fields. In between these fields are three permanent artificial cricket pitches. Cricket nets are located to the north of the changing rooms and a long jump pit to the south of the field. A 400m athletics track is also marked out during the summer period.

3_Cliff Top

The portion of the Gentleman's Bay cliff top within Glover Park greatly enhances the passive recreational opportunities within the reserve. This area is elevated, open, and exposed, provides relief and contrast from the enclosure experienced elsewhere within the park. A pathway extends along the top of the cliff line linking with the carpark through the established stand of vegetation and the end of Waitara Road. Seats are scattered along the path to allow appreciation of the impressive seaward views which are in some places framed by the cliff line pohutukawa. Currently there is no defined or suitable safe connection down the precipitous cliff face from the reserve to the shoreline of Gentleman's Bay.

4_Crater Slopes

The slopes of the former crater constitute the largest part, and are the main distinguishing characteristic of the reserve providing contrast and enclosure to the playing fields. The angle of the slopes vary around the reserve, and in many areas are steep, which limits access, particularly during the winter. The slopes also offer opportunities for passive recreational use. Vegetation cover is also highly varied, with the greatest density associated with the northern and southern slopes. Across the northern slope, the clusters of vegetation separate the cliff top area from the main reserve and create a series of small enclosed spaces across the hillside. The eastern slope, by contrast, is wide with a gentler gradient. In this part of the reserve the vegetation is more scattered.

2.2.4_Facilities

- Changing rooms, toilets and showers
- Equipment storage (athletics)
- Playing fields – summer
 - 3 artificial cricket pitches
 - 3 cricket fields

- Athletics track and associated activities (long jump, high jump, shot put, discus etc)
- Playing fields – winter
 - 2 full sized soccer fields and 2 smaller soccer fields
 - OR 9 junior fields
- Junior playground with bark chip surfacing
- Sealed car park accessed off Glover Road (87 spaces)
- On street parallel car parking
- Pedestrian access path to Waitara Road (via the cliff top)
- Off-leash dog exercise area

Stakeholders

As well as the local community, the main stakeholders associated with Glover Park include:

- Eastern Suburbs Association Football Club Inc
- Parnell Cricket Club
- Auckland University Cricket Club
- Cornwall Cricket Club
- Eastern Athletics and Harrier Club
- Round the Bays
- Schools within 1.2km – Churchill Park School, St Heliers School

Seasonal Use

Eastern Suburbs AFC - Season runs from end April through to end August.

Parnell Cricket Club | other cricket clubs - Season runs from October through to April with a break over Christmas.

Eastern Athletics and Harrier Club - Season runs from October through to end March with a break over Christmas.

2.2.5_Consultation

Extensive stakeholder and public consultation was undertaken as part of the site analysis. Further details of the consultation strategy and the full findings can be found in Appendix 1 of this document. In summary the key findings in order of significance relevant to Glover Park are:

Strengths (existing positive attributes)

1. Natural landscape characteristics/ amenity
2. Size and useable open space
3. Close proximity and convenience
4. Views (sea especially)
5. Large and diverse range of recreational activities
6. Dog walking
7. Condition/maintenance

Weaknesses (issues and opportunities)

1. Improve drainage and install sand pitches
2. Improved sportsfield floodlighting
3. Upgraded changing and toilet facilities and storage
4. Improve paths/circulation
5. Artificial surfacing

6. Improved grounds management
7. Improved parking
8. More seating and site amenities
9. Improved cricket nets
10. Extend/upgrade playground

2.2.6_Additional Considerations

In addition to the key findings of the consultation, further considerations highlighted as part of the consultation process and from detailed site analysis identified the following additional issues and opportunities (in no particular order):

- Opportunity to realign playing field layout to maximise use
- Better and safer throwing facilities (shot put and discus cages)
- Improved and enlarged storage facilities for athletics
- Realign summer and winter sports codes for better use for all
- Playable artificial run-ups for long jump pits
- Anti-social behaviour associated with carpark
- Vehicle entrance to car park – difficult manoeuvring when codes overlap
- Unsightly park entrance and car park, lack of trees
- Street interface – little edge definition
- Limited shelter from prevailing winds
- No shade for playground
- Lack of pedestrian access around park and access from adjoining streets
- Difficult access from southern and eastern side (Glover Road and Waitara

Road)

- Uncoordinated park furniture
- Private property garden encroachment into reserve (18 Glover Rd)
- Insufficient drinking fountain or dog watering facilities
- State and width of access path along top of escarpment to Waitara Road
- Soccer goal storage area (poor visual amenity)
- Timber railing along road frontages – unsightly and dated
- Fragmented and uncoordinated tree planting
- Inappropriate trees species and poor health of many trees
- Grass maintenance (steep terrain)
- No connection to adjacent coastline
- Potential safety issues northern edge of park (cliff face)



Legend

- Pedestrian access
- Vehicle access
- Park entrances
- Playground
- Parking
- Parking areas
- Football fields
- F 5
- Permanent cricket wickets
- Existing sports field lighting
- Existing vehicle restraints
- Site boundary



Glover Park_Site Analysis

PRELIMINARY 02_02_2012

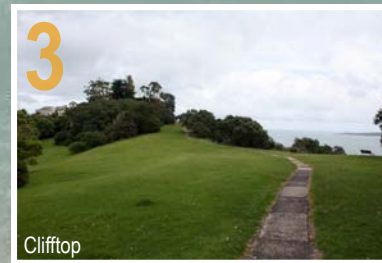
Site Access / Use

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3

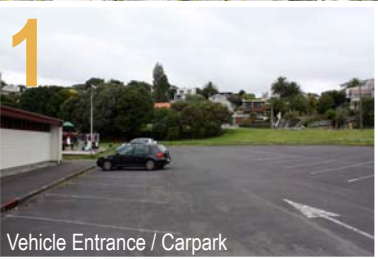




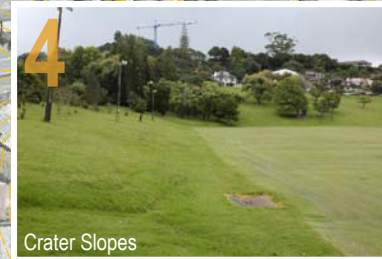
Central Sportsfields



Clifftop



Vehicle Entrance / Carpark



Crater Slopes



Gentleman's Bay

Glover Road

Waitara Road



Legend

- Prominent native vegetation
- Prominent specimen trees
- Mixed amenity planting
- Steep slopes
- Ridge line
- Character areas
- Views into reserve
- Significant views out of reserve
- Former Pa site
- Contours (1m intervals)
- Site boundary



Glover Park_Site Analysis

PRELIMINARY 02_02_2012

Landscape Characteristics

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3

