

ISTHMUS REPORTING AREA

Includes Albert-Eden, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Orākei, Puketāpapa and Waitemata local boards

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD

JULY 2014

AREA
GRADE

D

QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING AREA

14,500
HECTARES IN SIZE

ONE OF A FEW LOCATIONS
IN AUCKLAND WHERE YOU

'NATIONALLY

ANNUAL FERN

OVERALL GRADE



LAND COVER



NATIVE PLANTS



BIRDS



PESTS



WEEDS



WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

The overall grade is made up of five indicators:

Land cover: Based on different ecosystems mapped in NZ Land Cover Database 3 (2008).

Native plants: Average of four sub-indicators which reflect the diversity and biomass of native plants, and the regeneration of native saplings and seedlings.

Birds: Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the average diversity and conspicuousness of native birds, and the total number of bird species found within the reporting area.

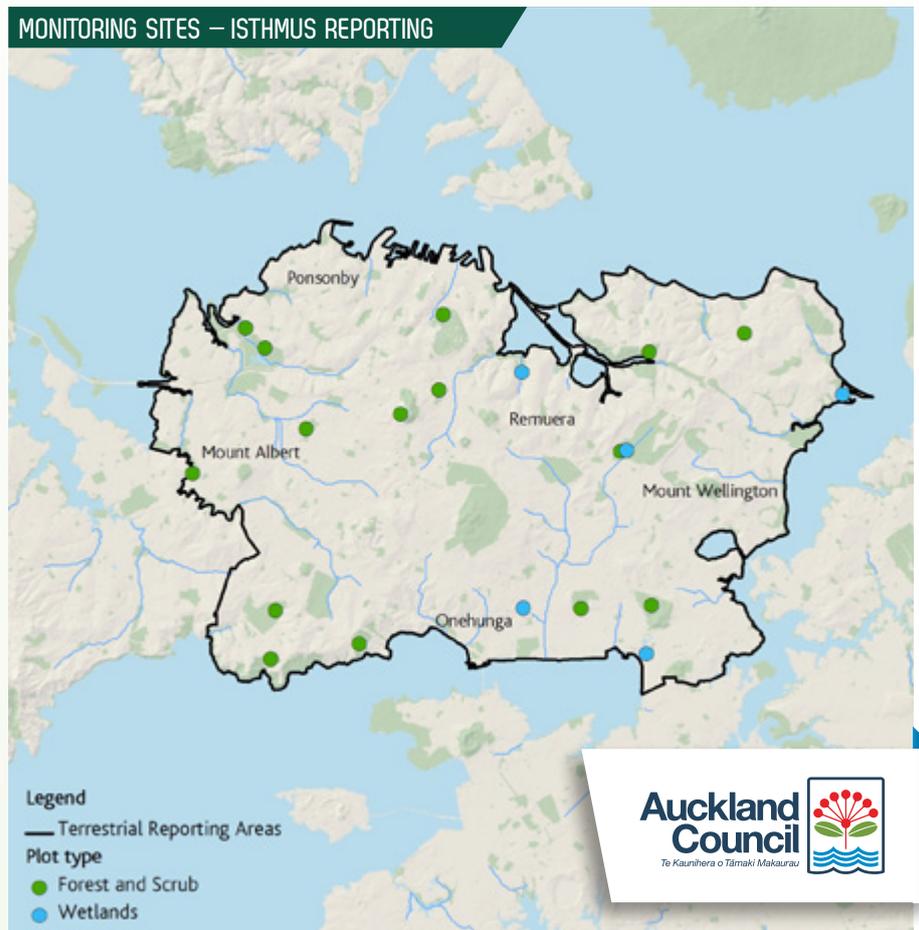
Weeds: Average of three sub-indicators which reflect the abundance and relative dominance of weedy and exotic trees, saplings and seedlings.

Pests: Average of four sub-indicators which indicate the number of pest-free sites, and presence of rats, mice and possums in the landscape.

Note: Includes forest data only. From 2015 wetland data will also be reported.

THE VOLCANIC BOULDERFIELDS AND ESTUARINE SYSTEMS IN ALBERT-EDEN LOCAL BOARD

MONITORING SITES – ISTHMUS REPORTING



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Isthmus reporting area is the relatively low lying area of land between the Waitematā and Manukau Harbours. The isthmus is highly diverse geologically, being formed from a patchwork of volcanic scoria cones, lava flows, explosion craters and older sedimentary rocks. It has been heavily urbanised over the last 150 years with approximately 75 per cent of land cover being converted to urban and industrial use. Consequently, there is very little remaining cover of native forest, scrub and wetland ecosystems (approx 3% in total).

Despite the history of urban development, a number of remnants of native forest (Kepa Bush, Dingle Dell, Wattle Bay, Domain Forest) and wetlands (Western Springs, Waitarua,

Tahuna-Torea) remain. The reporting area has an extensive and diverse coastal fringe that retains dozens of small saltwater to freshwater wetland systems and some of the best remaining examples of coastal forest in Auckland. Extensive intertidal mudflats are also a dominant feature of the coastline.

The forest remnants include tiny fragments of lava forest (e.g. Gribblehirst Park and Mt Eden) which is a significant and highly threatened ecosystem type both regionally and nationally. Auckland's lava forests have a species composition unlike anywhere else in New Zealand and consist of plant species adapted to the harsh, dry substrate on which the forest grows.

KEY BIODIVERSITY SITE

AUCKLAND DOMAIN

The Auckland Domain is the city's oldest park and contains the largest contiguous area of urban forest in the Waitemata, Albert-Eden and Orakei Local Boards. The 75 hectare park has been developed around the cone of an extinct volcano. The Auckland Domain has an impressive collection of native and exotic trees. Planting started in the early 1850s in the Government Gardens, and there are both formally planted areas and wild areas on the fringes. These wild areas comprise a mix of both native and exotic trees and shrubs, many of which are naturally established.

The Domain provides habitat for a surprisingly large amount of biodiversity for a site so close to the centre of New Zealand's largest city. This provides the more than 200,000 people who live and work in the CBD and surrounding suburbs with ready access to green spaces and nature, an important resource that has been shown to increase people's physical and emotional wellbeing. A recent BioBlitz in April 2010 recorded 1,521 species of vascular plants, birds, mammals, invertebrates, fungi, bryophytes, and lichens. These included 848 vascular plant species, 83 beetle species, and 119 species of spiders, mites and other arachnids.



Auckland Domain

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research, Investigations and Monitoring Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. Auckland's environment must be healthy and resilient in order

to support life and lifestyle. More report cards can be found at: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/stateofauckland. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council provides more than 20 environmental programmes across the region for you to get involved with and improve your local environment.

► For more information: e-mail monitoring@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call us on 09 301 0101.