

NORTH-EAST COAST REPORTING AREA

Includes Devonport-Takapuna and Hibiscus and Bays local boards

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD



QUICK FACTS

THE REPORTING AREA IS APPROXIMATELY
13,500
 HECTARES IN SIZE

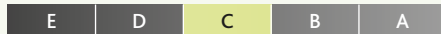
ALL WETLAND TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY MONITORING SITES IN THE NORTH-EAST COAST HAVE BEEN SAMPLED TWICE SINCE THE PROGRAMME'S INCEPTION IN 2009

WAIHEKE CONTAINS A VARIETY OF BIRD LIFE INCLUDING KORIMAKO/BELLBIRD, KĀKĀRIKI/RED-CROWNED PARAKEET AND TŪTURIWHATU/NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL.

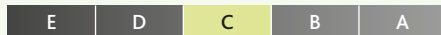
FOREST - LANDCOVER



FOREST - NATIVE PLANTS



FOREST - NATIVE BIRDS



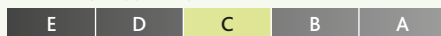
FOREST - PEST ANIMALS



FOREST - WEEDS



WETLANDS - CONDITION



WETLANDS - NATIVE PLANTS



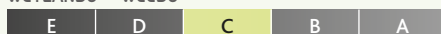
WETLANDS - NATIVE BIRDS



WETLANDS - PEST ANIMALS



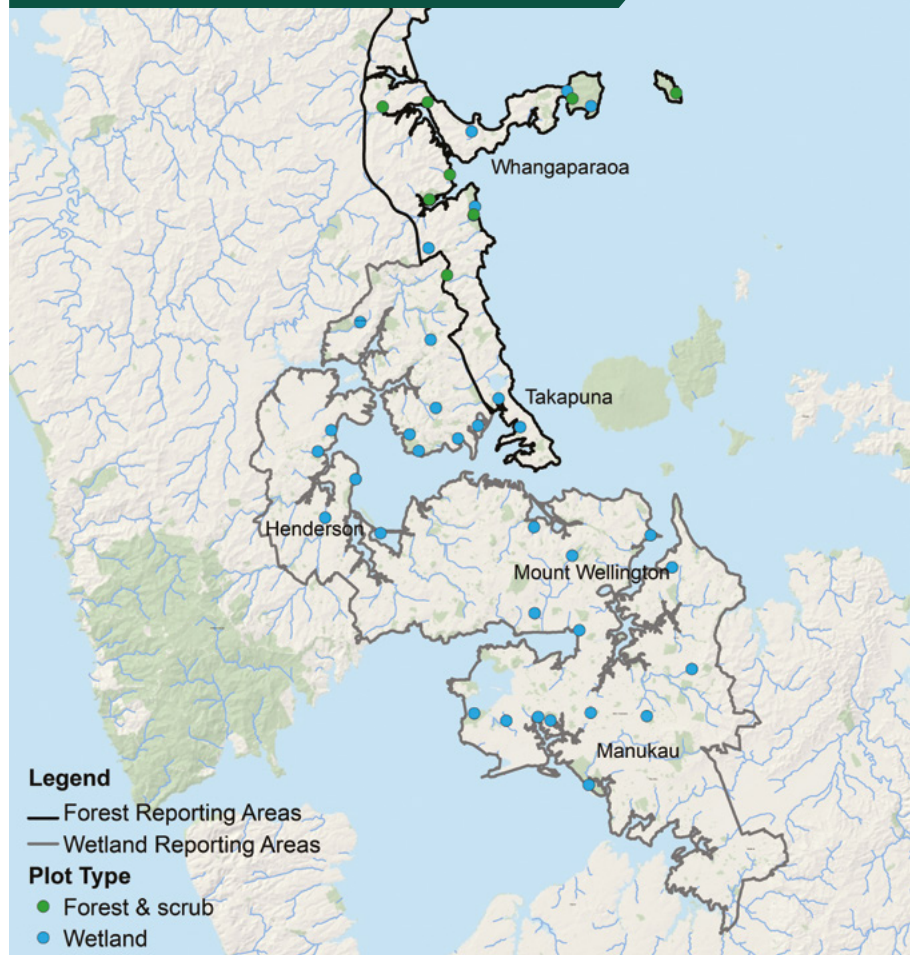
WETLANDS - WEEDS



WHAT MAKES UP THIS GRADE?

Indicator grades were calculated using data collected from forest and wetland terrestrial biodiversity monitoring plots. As the full set of remeasures were only available for the wetland indicators, only the wetland grades have been updated and thus the forest grades are the same as the last 2016 report card.

MONITORING SITES - NORTH-EAST COAST REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The north-east coast reporting area generally contains east-facing rolling coastal hills, fringed along the coast by a string of sandy beaches, islands and numerous estuaries and inlets.

The area includes two high-density urban concentrations centred on Albany/East Coast Bays/Takapuna and Orewa/Whangaparaoa Peninsula. These urban zones are divided by around 3500 hectares of pastoral farms, plantation forest and lifestyle blocks around Okura and Stillwater.

The reporting area still retains a relatively high cover of native forest and shrubland for an urban area (approx 15 per cent).

These are mostly present as patches within the rural landscape, although there are significant forest reserves in some urban settings. A number of important ecological features are present, including many ecologically important original native forest and wetland habitats.

Shakespear Regional Park and Tiritiri Matangi Island Scientific Reserve also lie within the boundaries of this reporting area. Tiritiri Matangi is free of pest mammals, while mice are the sole remaining pest mammal at Shakespear.

HIGHLIGHTS

Whangaparaoa peninsula in the North-East Coast reporting area contains one of Auckland's larger regional parks, Shakespear. The park was originally acquired by Auckland Regional Council in 1967. The majority of the park is part of the Shakespear Open Sanctuary, which was established by the Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society Incorporated ("SOSSI"). This group was formed in 2004 with the goal to gain public support for the sanctuary and funding to build the now 1.7 km predator-proof fence that keeps out the majority of invasive mammalian predators. Auckland Council work alongside SOSSI to continue to keep pests at bay in the sanctuary and to further restore this important area, which harbours a variety of significant habitat and wildlife, including a number of native skinks (e.g. shore and moko skink) and birds (e.g. little spotted kiwi, korimako/bellbird, kākārīki/red-crowned parakeet, pāteke/brown teal, pōpokatea/whitehead, toutouwai/North Island robin, tīeke/North Island saddleback).

Shakespear, and its northern neighbour Tāwharanui, have been the subject of a recent invertebrate study by the council and the University of Auckland. The major aims of this research are: a) to help evaluate the restoration management programmes at these sites ('outcome monitoring'), and b) to investigate whether certain invertebrates may be useful environmental indicators (such as birds are), and hence which species could be targeted in future biodiversity monitoring. Results thus far are as follows:

- A total of 37,801 individual invertebrates were collected with both parks having a similar high-level diversity of invertebrates (i.e. at Phylum/Order level) averaging 32 different critters.
- Some arthropods contained other invertebrates: e.g. one orthopteran had a plethora of hair-like Gordian worms (a parasitic species) erupting from its carapace, and other insects were home to Acari (mites and ticks).
- The winning pitfall trap with the highest number of individual invertebrates trapped was at Tāwharanui in January (2017), containing 1154 specimens which were mostly flies and beetles.

Thus far, the identification work has revealed an impressive diversity of invertebrates with a variety of insects, millipedes, snails, crustaceans, spiders and many other types of invertebrates.



Vagrant spider

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by the Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. More report cards can be found at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

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