

SOUTH-EASTERN PLAIN REPORTING AREA

Includes Howick, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Papakura local boards

STATE OF AUCKLAND TERRESTRIAL REPORT CARD



QUICK FACTS

THE SOUTH-EAST PLAIN REPORTING AREA HAD AN URBAN TREE COVER OF

12%

IN 2013

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THIS TREE COVER IS ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND.

THE REPORTING AREA IS APPROXIMATELY
26,800
HECTARES IN SIZE

THE FOREST REMNANTS IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS AND EITHER SIDE OF HILL ROAD INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF INDIGENOUS FOREST ECOSYSTEM.

FOREST - LANDCOVER



FOREST - NATIVE PLANTS



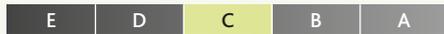
FOREST - NATIVE BIRDS



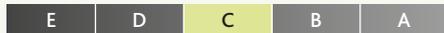
FOREST - PEST ANIMALS



FOREST - WEEDS



WETLANDS - CONDITION



WETLANDS - NATIVE PLANTS



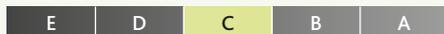
WETLANDS - NATIVE BIRDS



WETLANDS - PEST ANIMALS



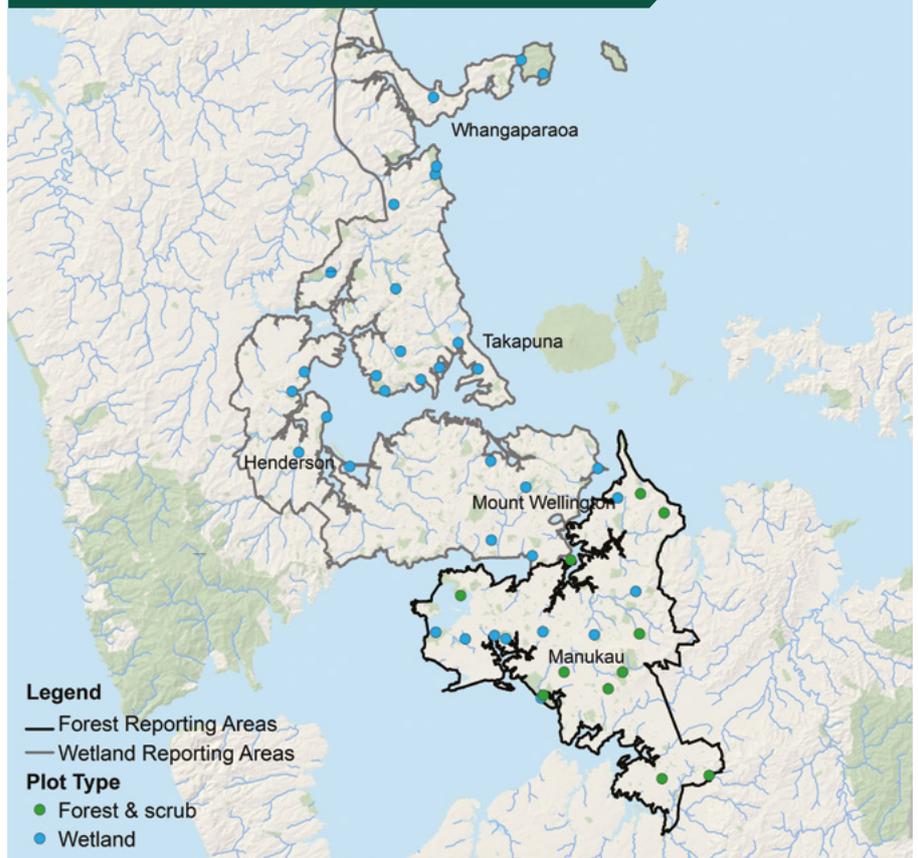
WETLANDS - WEEDS



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 – SOUTH-EASTERN PLAIN REPORTING AREA



CURRENT ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The south-eastern plain reporting area includes Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Howick, Manurewa, Papakura and Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Boards, an area which includes the flat, relatively fertile plains to the south and east of the city. More recent volcanic landforms of the Auckland volcanic field are also present along the Tāmaki Estuary and in the Māngere-Papatoetoe area.

Land cover in this area has been heavily modified by human activity in the past 150 years, and very little (approx 3 per cent) native vegetation remains. The northern and western parts of this reporting area are largely urban (approx 60 per cent total cover) while the east and south has a long history of farming, given its rich

volcanic soils, with most native vegetation having been cleared for agricultural purposes.

Estuarine habitats are the most common native vegetation, most of which is located in major watercourses (e.g. Waimahia, Puhinui and Waokauri creeks) and along the long, convoluted harbour and estuary coastlines. These estuarine areas are home to migrant and native bird species, several of which are threatened. Native forest and scrub, once the most widespread land cover in this area, has been reduced to a few small, scattered fragments and most freshwater wetlands have been drained.

HIGHLIGHTS

The freshwater wetland located in Kohuora Park, Papatoetoe, within the Kenderdine Catchment is a great example of a local biodiversity gem and how biodiversity can be restored through active management. Freshwater wetlands are uncommon in the Auckland region and Kohuora wetland is the only known freshwater wetland associated with a tuff ring left in the Tāmaki Ecological District, meaning it is both a representative and unique ecological feature. Up until around 2009 this wetland comprised a mosaic of indigenous wetland vegetation, crack willow forest, weedfield and rank grassland; however, the last nine years has seen a significant investment in wetland restoration work at Kohuora by the Auckland Council and community. Weedy plants have been removed and replaced with native wetland plants and board-walks, and other tracks have been removed, allowing people to enjoy the new environments. Indigenous biodiversity is increasing, thriving and expanding within Kohuora Park.

Despite its size and urban location, the site is utilised by a number of native birds including one 'at risk' species: kāruhiruhi/pied shag (Recovering), karoro/ Southern black-backed gull, kōtare/sacred kingfisher, pūkeko, tauhou/silvereye, and spur-winged plover. Fish diversity is likely to be low, with a previous fish survey of local waterways recording only two native fish species: tuna/shortfin eel and inanga/whitebait, the latter of which has a threat classification of 'Declining'. The wetland may also act as a stepping stone for birds travelling between the Manukau and Waitemātā harbours.



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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