The image is a vertical photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a person with long brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark shorts, is sitting on a wooden bench, facing away from the camera. They are holding a red cup. To the right of the person, a black dog with white markings is standing on the grass. In the background, there is a large, leafy tree with a thick trunk. The ground is covered in green grass, and there is a wooden fence in the distance. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

January 2023

Watercare Central Interceptor Point Erin Park Recreation Assessment

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**Prepared for Watercare
by
Rob Greenaway**

**Rob Greenaway & Associates
www.greenaway.co.nz**

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Cover photo: Athena Lambrinidou - Point Erin Park

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1 Executive summary and recommendations

Watercare is seeking resource consent to construct, commission, operate and maintain a wastewater interceptor tunnel and associated activities at Point Erin Park in Herne Bay ("Point Erin Tunnel" or "Project"). The Project can be broken into two distinct parts, the Point Erin tunnel which runs from Tawariki Street in Grey Lynn to Point Erin Park in Herne Bay, and the associated activities within Point Erin Park (the "Point Erin Shaft Site"). This report assesses the potential impacts of the Project on recreational use of Point Erin Park, and makes recommendations to minimise the scale of effects anticipated. The "Point Erin Shaft Site" for the purposes of this assessment is the greenspace

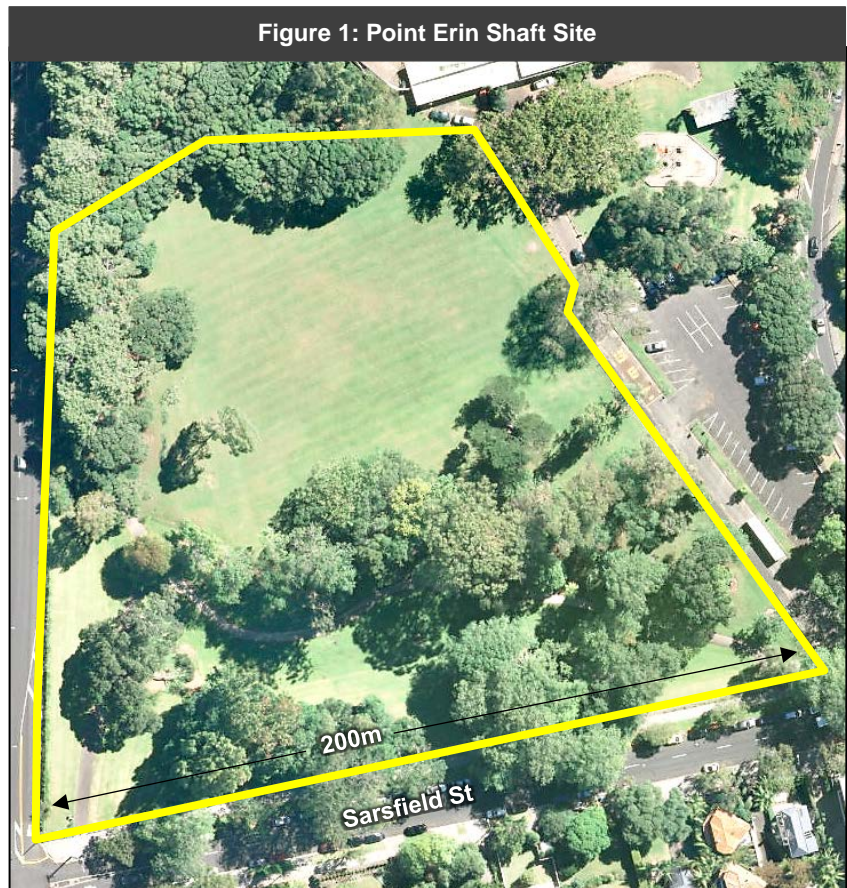
area to the south-west of the Point Erin Pool ("Pool") bounded by the Park's carpark to the east, Sarsfield Street to the south and Curran Street to the west (Figure 1).

The works at the Point Erin Shaft Site are proposed to occur in two discrete locations within the Point Erin Shaft Site (shown in Appendix 1):

- The terminal shaft and associated construction area (approximately 3,150 m²) is proposed to be located in the grassed area immediately to the south of the Point Erin Pools (referred to as the main construction area). Post-construction, a permanent vent stack is proposed to be located in the north-western corner of the Park's greenspace.
- The control chamber, plant room and associated construction area (approximately 1,880m²) is proposed to be located towards the southwest corner of Point Erin Park near the intersection of Curran and Sarsfield Streets (referred to as the south-western construction area). The plant room will remain post-construction and will have a footprint of approximately 40 m² and be approximately 4 m in height.

Construction of the works in Point Erin Park is proposed to begin in the first half of 2024 and is expected to take between two and three years with a projected completion in 2026 and commissioning in 2026/27.

Point Erin Park (not including the strip of land adjacent to the Northern Motorway south of Shelly Beach Road) includes a land area of approximately 4.95 ha, 7,700 m² of which is occupied by the Pool compound. The Point Erin Shaft Site where construction activities for the Project are proposed measures approximately 2.1 ha (Figure 1). The construction footprint within Point Erin Park, including both the main and southwestern construction areas, will occupy



approximately 24% of the Point Erin Shaft Site, and approximately 12% of all the Point Erin Park open space (excluding the Pool and parking areas).

This assessment is based on literature review, Strava data, interviews and an observational analysis of recreational use of the Point Erin Shaft Site.

The key promoted use of the Point Erin Shaft Site is as an off-leash dog area, although it is also popular for casual recreation including walking, running, picnics and socialising. The observational analysis carried out for this assessment reported 38% of users to be with a dog and 30% walking or running, with use spread evenly throughout the Point Erin Shaft Site greenspace. The recently sealed pathway leading from the corner of Curran and Sarsfield Street to the north of the Pool and ultimately linking with the Jacob's Ladder Bridge and Westhaven is the key recreational thoroughfare within the Park, used by runners, walkers, cyclists and dog walkers. This pathway appears to be the most-used part of the Point Erin Shaft Site.

The Pool is reported to be highly popular over summer, and parking within Point Erin Park and on nearby streets is often constrained. A separate traffic assessment to address potential construction activity effects on parking and access to the Pool and the Park has been completed by T+T and is therefore not included as part of this assessment.

Construction at the Point Erin Shaft Site has the potential to displace:

- Off-leash dog activities in a popular part of the greenspace area. However, 78% of the greenspace at Point Erin Park will remain accessible outside the construction areas, with just over 7,000 m² of open greenspace unaffected north of the Pool. There may be the potential for increased conflict between dog users within the Park as a result of its temporary reduction in scale, but there is currently no indication that the Park is at or near capacity. The observational analysis indicated an average of 18 users per hour using the Point Erin Shaft Site, and seven dog walkers per hour. Most of the latter were walking through the Park on the sealed paths, spending an average of 8 minutes on-site.
- Picnic and socialising activities near the Pool. As with off-leash dog activities, there will remain ample scope within Point Erin Park for these activities, and there appears to be no current capacity problems within the Park – as indicated by the observational analysis.
- Small-scale community events. Only a handful of small-scale community events – such as family days and 'Gymnastics in the Park' – have been identified as occurring within the Point Erin Shaft Site (seven or eight per year). These appear to have fewer than 100 participants each and often focus on the treed component of the greenspace, relying on relatively small areas. Some displacement might result, although considering the scale of use, the events should be able to continue during construction. The 2021 Liberate-the-Lane cycle event was based at the Point Erin Park with a reported 2,500 participants. This was a one-off event – and possibly illegal – but a repeat would be compromised by the construction activity.

The southwestern construction area has the potential to displace access on the main recreational thoroughfare through Point Erin Park.

To maintain recreation opportunities within Point Erin Park during construction, it is recommended that:

- Walking, dog walking, running and cycling passage is supported via, as much as possible, maintaining the existing access routes near their current locations, and/or providing similar connections with appropriate wayfinding signs.

- Event managers (see section 3.2) be advised of the Project and construction timeframes to enable forward planning.
- Signs be installed onsite directing dog walkers to the remaining areas of open greenspace, particularly the large area at the northern end of the Park.
- Construction progress signs be maintained on-site to advise recreational users of the rationale for and timing of the Project.
- The picnic table in the north-western corner is relocated to an appropriate site within the Park, mostly likely an area of greenspace in the centre of the eastern boundary adjacent the carpark just north of the row of eucalyptus trees.
- Traffic management recommendations made by Tonkin + Taylor be implemented to support the operation of the Point Erin Pool.
- Site rehabilitation be carried out to a high standard.

With these mitigations in place, Park users will be able to adapt to the proposed activity during the construction phase and maintain the recreation benefits currently available at the Park.

Post construction, effects of the permanent vent stack and the plant room arise from the addition of new built structures in park greenspace which are not associated with recreation. Effects have the potential to be measurable if there is a recreation development proposal for the Park which is compromised by the location of immovable infrastructure. The scale of effect will depend on the proposed development and its ability to work around the Central Interceptor assets. There are no redevelopment proposals for the Park under consideration currently. Regardless, their design should be carried out in consultation with mana whenua, Auckland Council Parks Department and the local board (depending on their interest) as part of the wider park re-instatement programme.

2 Introduction

Watercare is proposing to extend the Central Interceptor (CI) wastewater conveyance and storage tunnel from Tawariki Street in Grey Lynn to a new terminal shaft in Point Erin. The tunnel extension will ensure combined overflows are picked up and conveyed to Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant for safe treatment, reducing overflows to the environment and improving the quality of waterways and swimmable beaches by 2028.

2.1 Project overview

The Project involves the construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of a wastewater interceptor tunnel and associated activities at Point Erin Park in Herne Bay. The Project can be broken into two distinct parts:

Point Erin tunnel

Point Erin tunnel runs from Tawariki Street in Grey Lynn to Point Erin Park in Herne Bay over a length of up to approximately 1.6 km. The tunnel is located entirely below ground. There are no surface works required for the tunnel.

Excavation of the tunnel will continue using the existing CI Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). Construction spoil from the tunnel will be taken back down the CI tunnel and removed at the existing consented/designated CI May Road construction site, and does not form part of this assessment.

The Point Erin Park Shaft Site

The works at the Point Erin Shaft Site are proposed to occur in two discrete locations within the park:

- The terminal shaft and associated construction area is proposed to be located in the grassed area immediately to the south of the Point Erin Pools (referred to as the main construction area).
- The control chamber, plant room and associated construction area is proposed to be located towards the southwest corner of Point Erin Park near the intersection of Curran and Sarsfield Streets (referred to as the southwestern construction area).

The proposed layout for these activities is shown in Appendix 1.

The Project works within the abovementioned locations in Point Erin Park broadly comprise:

- The construction of the terminal shaft and removal of the CI TBM.
- A terminal shaft venting arrangement (air intake and pressure release).
- The construction of a control chamber.
- Connections from the control chamber to the Sarsfield overflow collector and St Marys Bay pressure line, and the construction of a stub to facilitate a potential future wastewater connection.
- The construction of a plant room to house equipment to control the gates.
- Connections/adits between the terminal shaft, control chamber, vent and plant room, including a 2.5m diameter piped connection between the terminal shaft and control chamber.
- Earthworks of approximately 5,000m² in total across the two construction areas (approximately 3,150m² in the grassed area to the south of the Point Erin Pools and 1,880m² in the south-western corner of the park).

- Tree works (pruning, works in the root zone, removal, relocation).
- Temporary works including retaining walls to create level working areas, site access and internal circulation, and contractor's site compound.
- Transport movements including delivery of plant and construction materials, removal of material excavated during the construction of the shaft and control chamber, and removal of the TBM.
- Park reinstatement and landscaping following completion of construction works.

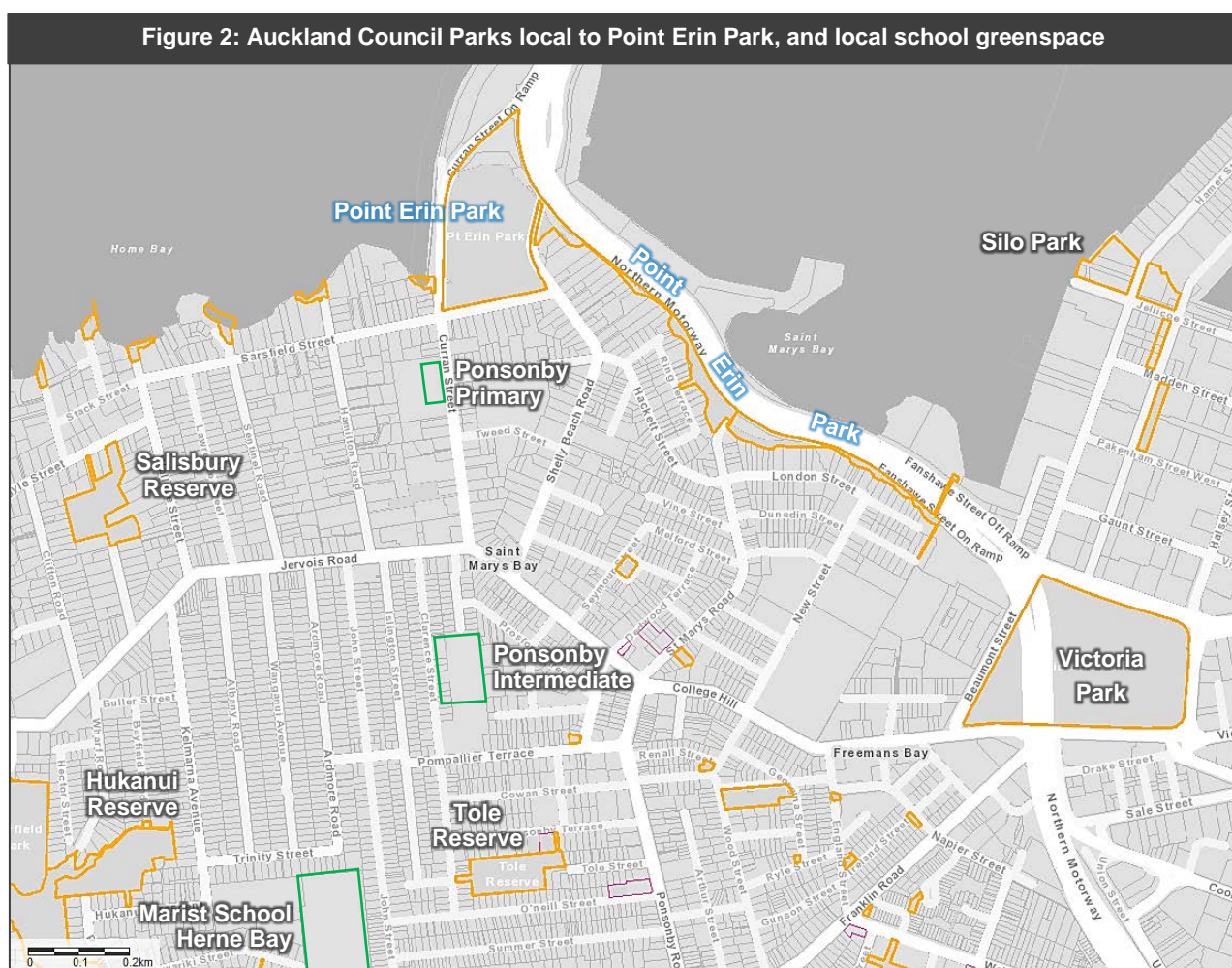
The Project has been developed to a concept design stage. As it moves through the detailed design process and as construction methodology is confirmed, it is likely that some details will change but remain within the envelope of effects assessed in this assessment. All figures and dimensions provided are approximate and will be confirmed during the detailed design stage.

3 Existing environment

Figure 2 shows the location of Point Erin Park relative to other areas of public parks space nearby, including greenspace provided by local schools. Point Erin Park, as described within Auckland Council's GIS system, includes approximately 1.8 ha of greenspace extending south-east from Point Erin on the western side of the Northern Motorway to the Jacob's Ladder Bridge giving access to Z Pier within Westhaven Marina and the walkway adjacent to Westhaven Drive. The study area for the purposes of this assessment focuses on the main body of the Park at Point Erin bounded by Curran Street to the west, Sarsfield Street to the south, Shelly Beach Road to the east and the Curran Street On Ramp to the north. This includes a land area of approximately 4.95 ha,¹ 7,700 m² of which is occupied by the Point Erin Pool compound. The greenspace area to the south of the Pool and west of the carpark measures approximately 2.1 ha.

The Park is zoned a mixture of Open Space – Informal Recreation zone and Open Space – Sport and Active Recreation Zone in the Auckland Unitary Plan. A planning assessment is not within the scope of this report and is provided separately in the Assessment of Effects on the Environment for the Project.

The Park area is held freehold by Auckland Council. The Reserves Act 1977 does not apply to the land. There is no relevant current management plan for the Park prepared by the Auckland



Council.

¹ Part Allotment 9-10 Section 8 Suburbs of Auckland, Part Deposited Plan 501 and Lot 3 Deposited Plan 48893, Section 1 Survey Office Plan 469767, and Section 2 Survey Office Plan 469767

Point Erin Park provides a substantial component of the public open space available to residents of Herne Bay and St Marys Bay, with the nearest alternatives for large scale greenspace at Victoria Park, Salisbury Reserve and Ponsonby Primary School.

3.1 Point Erin Pool

The Point Erin Pool is managed on contract to Auckland Council by Community Leisure Management ("CML") and opens in the first week of November, closing on the last week of March. The busiest period is from November through to the end of January, with 30,000 to 40,000 visitors over January and approximately 60,000 for the whole season.

3.2 Events

The Park is irregularly used for small scale events, including this year:²

- Gymnastics in the Park – Out and About Auckland (26 Nov 2022)
- Wild Family Nature Network – Craftlab NZ (12 & 13 Oct 2022)
- Flying Fun in the Park – Out and About Auckland (29 April 2022)
- Conscious Kids Junk Play – Conscious Kids NZ (2 April 2022)
- Gymnastics in the Park – Out and About Auckland (12 Feb 2022)
- Craftlab NZ family event (12 Jan 2022)
- The starting point for several casual dog walks – the North Island Bull Terrier Club has promoted events starting at the Park, for example.³

Facebook event images online indicate fewer than 100 people at each, with a focus on the paths and treed areas of the greenspace.^{3, 4}

In May 2021 the Park was used by Bike Auckland as the rallying location for the Liberate the Lane protest, with approximately 2,500 people.⁵

3.3 Park assets

Figure 3 shows the built parks assets within Point Erin Park according to the Auckland Council assets GeoMaps GIS database. This shows relatively little infrastructure within the Point Erin Shaft Site, specifically a picnic table, two rubbish bins and a sealed path. Two park benches are located in the south eastern corner of the greenspace outside the proposed construction areas. The Point Erin Pool and its associated carpark and nearby playground and toilets are the main built assets within the Park.

Turf within Point Erin Park is managed to the TURF3H standard – a maintenance standard for 'passive' recreation in the middle range of available management standards for 'passive' sites (ranging from 1 to 5), and below the standards applied to sportsfields. The preferred turf height is between 50 and 100mm.⁶

² Based on Facebook event promotions. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pt-Erin-Park-Ponsonby/152201728179084>

³ https://www.facebook.com/events/480725560529148/?active_tab=about

⁴ Also confirmed by Tania Donnianni (Gym Zone), pers. comm. See Section 4

⁵ <https://www.greatauckland.org.nz/2021/05/27/liberate-the-lane-rally-on-sunday/>

⁶ *Standard Operating Procedures Manual for Auckland Council (Parks) building facilities, parks and open spaces. Part B Full Facilities Standard Operating Procedures.* June 2013.

Figure 3: Park Assets at Point Erin Park. AC Geomaps Assets data



3.4 Off-leash dog parks

One of the main features of Point Erin Park for recreation is that it is a designated off-leash area for dogs. The allowance “covers the area west of the car park, Pt Erin Pool, and extends to the pedestrian bridge over the motorway [Jacobs Ladder Bridge]”.⁷ Dogs are required to be on-leash near the playground and are prohibited from the playground itself – a restriction which applies to all playgrounds in Auckland. Figure 4 shows alternative off-leash areas nearby. Several parks further south – Moira Reserve, Tole Reserve and Bayfield Park – offer open areas for off-leash activity, whereas other nearby reserves permit it only within certain times and certain areas. All parks indicated in Figure 4 allow for on-leash dog walking either all the time or with some time restrictions.

Tole Reserve is a 1.2km, 17 minute walk from Point Erin Park, while Bayfield Park is a 1.7km, 22 minute walk. Meola Reef Dog Park – a dedicated fenced reserve area in Western Springs – is a 4km, 54 minute walk or 10 minute drive from Point Erin.⁸



⁷ <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/Pages/park-details.aspx?Location=171#dogwalking>

⁸ All times and distances as recommended by Google Maps

3.5 Strava data

Strava gives a good indication of the relative levels of pedestrian and cycle activity in and near Point Erin Park. Strava is increasingly becoming a useful tool for identifying the relative levels of interest in various recreation activities by setting. Strava is a social media platform where users record their GPS activity via their smartphones and other devices while recreating. The data are uploaded to a central database, allowing speed and time comparisons with other cyclists, runners, kayakers and swimmers (for example), and the monitoring of individual activity or training targets. While the service is popular with professional athletes, its membership is dominated by casual recreation participants. Strava indicates that it had 95 million international users in 2022 (80% outside the United States) with nearly an additional two million joining per month.⁹ It is now popular amongst regular cyclists and runners, and is also used by the likes of rowers, kayakers, walkers, waka ama and swimmers.

International comparisons between different forms of data gathering show a degree of reliability for Strava data with a range of 1% to 12% of users recorded on-site that are connected to the service; and this is growing. The author of this report has recorded participation levels for cycling in Aotearoa/New Zealand up to 20%. Strava is therefore a little like a tag and release programme. Strava essentially tags several thousand active people in an area and monitors where and how they recreate. Its greatest strength is in showing the relative value of settings for different forms of recreation. However, it must be noted that Strava data are biased to a sector of the population which is more likely to be physically active and reasonably tech-savvy. Some Strava data are also recorded while users are driving from their activity (they forget to turn tracking off), and some users miscode their activities (marine cyclists for example). There is also inaccuracy in GPS recording from some devices, with some recorded routes offset.

Figure 5 shows Strava data for cycling in part of Herne and St Marys Bays as a heatmap. GPS records for each recorded activity are overlaid with the busiest areas shown in white, and the less used areas as mauve. Curran Street and Westhaven Drive appear as popular cycling routes. Strava data indicate that over an approximately 10 year period, the Curran Street route heading north from Sarsfield Street was recorded as used 119,000 times by 6,765 individual cyclists. Over an approximately 12 month period – to December 2022 – this route was cycled by 1,942 Strava users approximately 34,000 times. Very similar counts apply to cyclists riding south on this section of Curran Street. The same data are not available for Sarsfield Street.¹⁰

Figure 6 shows the Strava heatmap for walking and running for the same area. This also shows the popularity of the Curran Street – Westhaven Drive route, and also the route of the annual Auckland Marathon. The latter includes a loop of Point Erin Park via the Harbour Bridge, Shelly Beach Road, Sarsfield Street and Curran Street. The loop within Point Erin Park itself and along the southern side of the Northern Motorway is also popular. Strava data indicate that over an approximately 10 year period, the Curran Street route heading north from Sarsfield Street was used 78,000 times by 10,600 individual walkers and runners. Over an approximately 12 month period – to December 2022 – this route was walked or run by 4,470 Strava users approximately 33,000 times. Over the past 12 months, use levels for those heading south on the same route have been approximately half that measure, although over ten years, similar use levels are reported. Again, the same data are not available for Sarsfield Street or the paths within Point Erin Park.

⁹ <https://www.businessofapps.com/data/strava-statistics/>

¹⁰ Strava users create their own route segments to allow virtual competition with other users. Strava reports the total number of users of each segment for all time and for year-to-date. The total number of attempts for all time is also reported – but not for year-to-date. The number of attempts (or uses) reported here for the year-to-date is based on applying the same ratio for all users and all attempts. There are no created segments for Sarsfield Street and so no available use data. See <https://www.strava.com/segments/12065516> and <https://www.strava.com/segments/14013083> for Curran Street (at December 2022).

Figure 7 and Figure 8 show more detail from the Strava heatmaps for Point Erin Park for cyclists and pedestrians respectively.

Figure 5: Strava heatmap data for cycling – 12 months cumulative data to Dec 2022



Figure 6: Strava heatmap data for pedestrian activities – 12 months cumulative data to Dec 2022

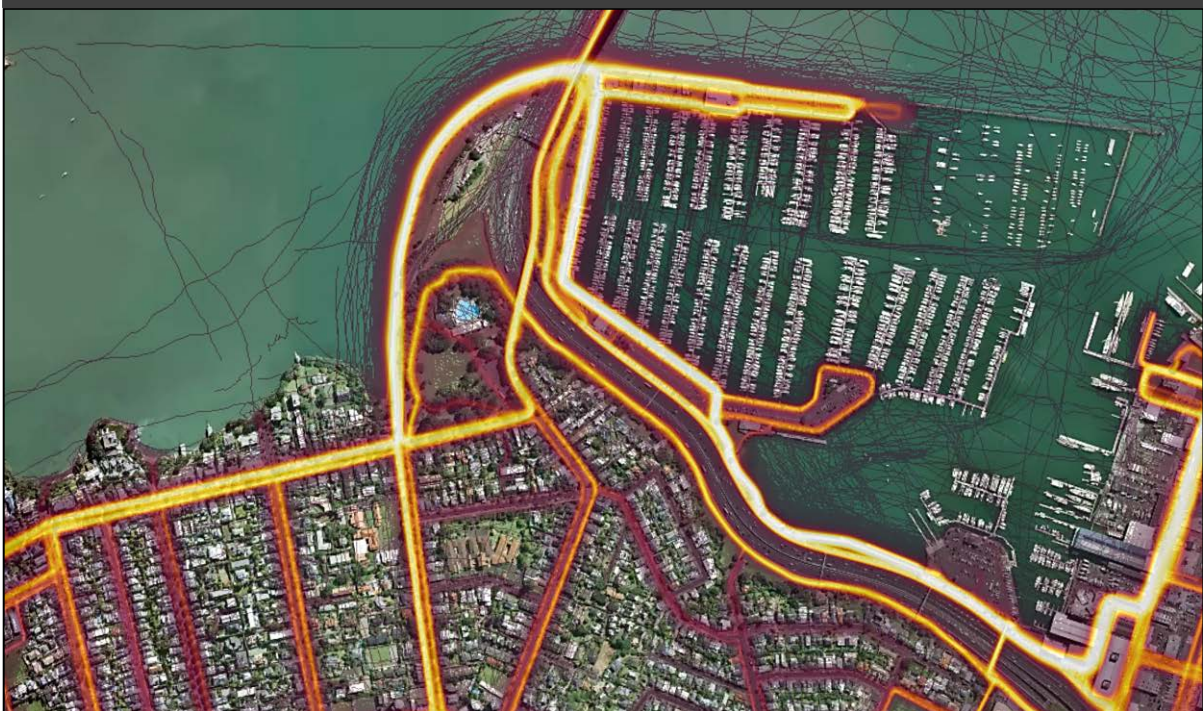


Figure 7 indicates that cyclists have a relatively low use of the paths within Point Erin Park, and this activity is almost entirely confined to the sealed paths. Records shown in the Motorway are most likely riders leaving their devices recording activity on their return drive from a cycle.

Figure 7: Strava heatmap data for cyclists at Pt Erin – 12 months cumulative data to Dec 2022

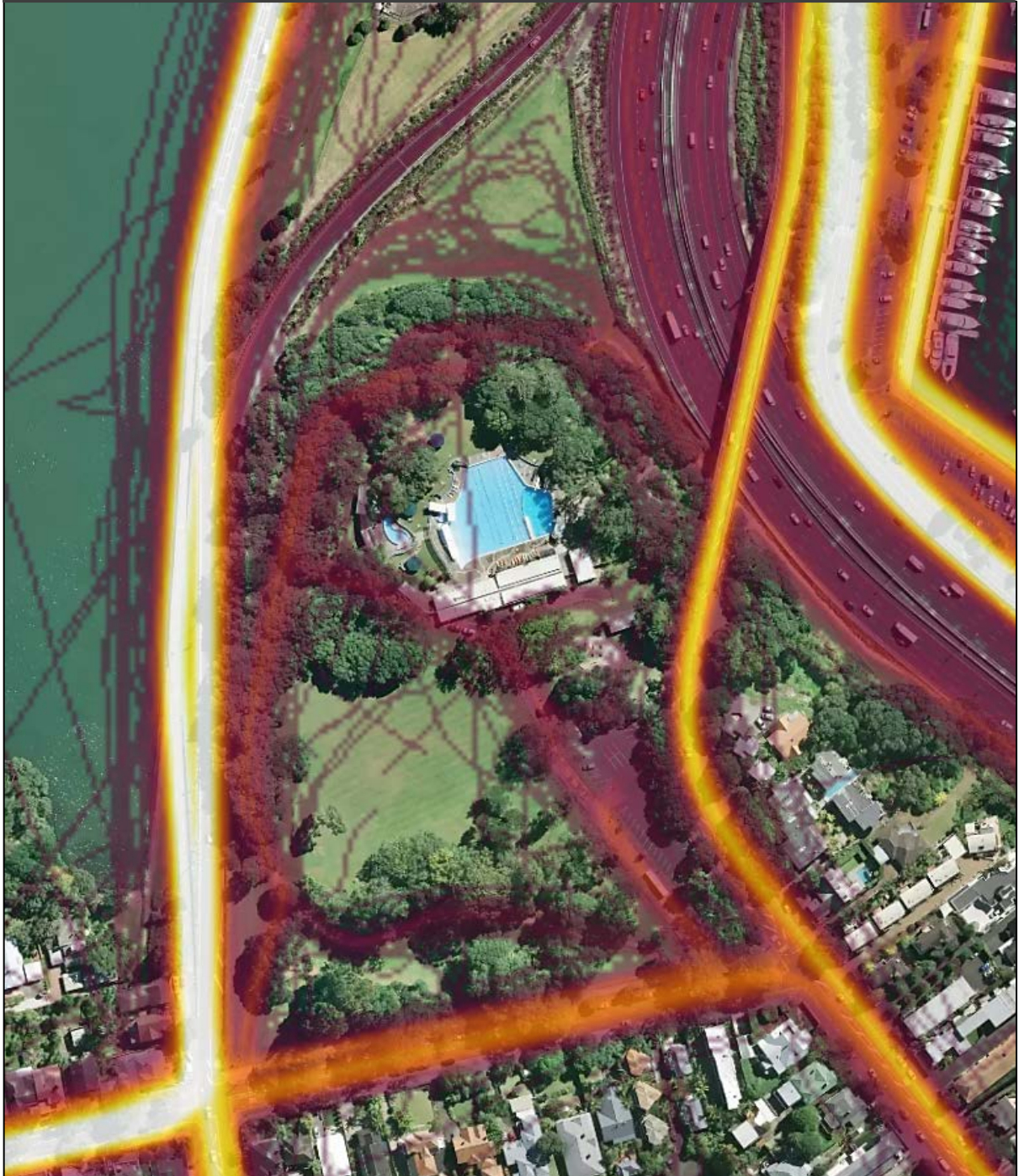


Figure 8 shows the relative popularity of the path within Point Erin Park from the corner of Curran and Sarsfield Streets around its western side and north of the pool, turning south towards Jacobs Ladder Bridge and Westhaven (or vice versa). The other two sealed paths within the Park also appear. Of note, the entire area of greenspace north and south of the pool are also shown as used – although the high use of the area generally has resulted in many off-set GPS records (across the surface of the pool and motorway for example). Nonetheless, both the northern and southern areas of greenspace are well-represented in the records. Records on Shelly Beach Road, Sarsfield and Current Streets will include those from the Auckland Marathon.



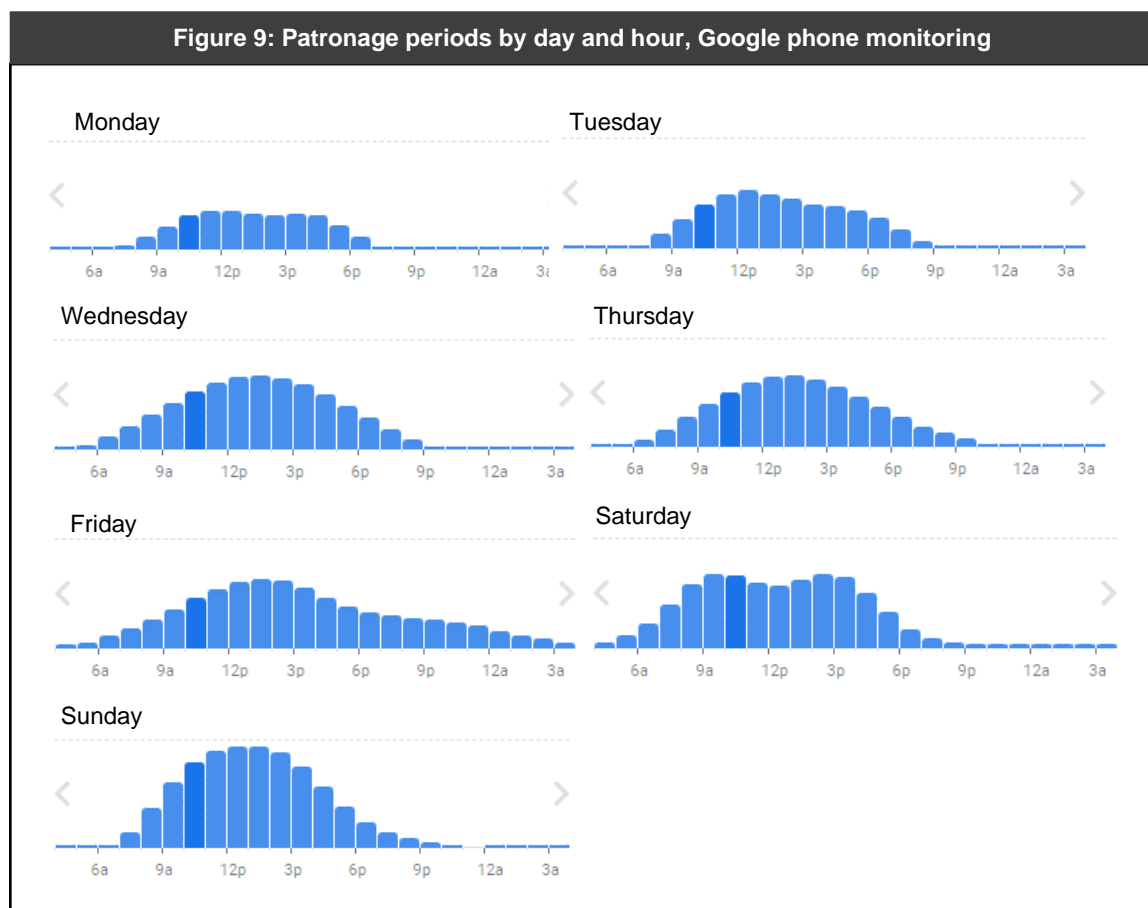
3.6 Google

Google provides some data about use of Point Erin Park via monitoring of phones located within it, and via online Google Reviews.

Like Strava, phone-based data are based on a 'tag and release' style method, with the scale of bias unknown. However, the phone data give some idea of high use periods via a relative measure (total counts of activity are unknown and would be misleading due to an unknown sample size).

Figure 9 shows the relative levels of activity by day according to phone records, with activity growing through the week, peaking on Sundays, but notably used for longer periods on Fridays and Saturdays. Least-impact days for activity within the Park would appear to be Mondays and Tuesdays. This is a similar use pattern to Victoria Park as shown by Google data.

Google reports that the average visit period to Point Erin Park is 30 minutes (and 45 minutes for Victoria Park).¹¹ The observational analysis (see Section 5) gave an average stay of 21 minutes for the Point Erin Shaft Site (including a school group of 200 who stayed for 28 minutes) but did not include use of the Pool, which would likely contribute the majority Google data.



On Google Reviews, 182 comments have been posted about Point Erin Park (at December 2022). These most commonly refer to the Point Erin Pool (generally, 'a bit run down but well maintained and really excellent, parking often a challenge'), but also refer to the greenspace areas of the Park. Useful examples include (all in the past two years):

¹¹ To access these data, Google 'Point Erin Park' and access the summary data presented as part of the search results.

- *This is a great park. Happy are those who live around the area. A great place you can bring your family and friends to enjoy a picnic, a good walk and so many circuits to earn your 10k steps.*
- *A great local place to take the dog off leash. Area isn't clearly marked but it's pretty good.*
- *Great park, mainly because this was where all the bike-loving Aucklanders came together to #LiberateTheLane at the Harbour Bridge. According to some estimates, there were about 2500 people with bikes so yeah pretty spacious green space to chill, especially if you're biking or walking around town and Ponsonby.*
- *It's a nice enough spot, but it would be so much better as an off-leash dog area if there was a fully enclosed fenced area. Even if just a modest portion was enclosed it would be much better for people with dogs and those without.¹²*
- *The view of the blue sea from the park is to die for. Greenery all around. A feast for your eyes and soul.*
- *This has been a popular place over the last couple of decades and has improved immensely over the years. As I live on the North Shore, Point Erin is just off the motorway and easy to get back onto. A great place to park and walk the dog through to Viaduct Basin for coffee then back along the Westhaven marina board walks. There is also a great off leash area for the dog at the Point Erin car park and never had issues with other dogs there. In summer the car park fills up quickly on the weekends and school holidays, as people use the Point Erin outside swimming pool. Which from what I see is well utilised by families and an asset to Tamaki Makaurau.*
- *Great little park in the heart of the city with options to walk to the local marina and explore a lovely area.*
- *Great spot to exercise your dog. Huge off leash area.*
- *Great views with plenty of car parking plus a nice round walk to the Harbour and back via Shelly Beach road.*
- *I am sitting in this park now and enjoying the ocean view and serenity.*
- *Great place to walk through as part of St. Mary's Bay walk.*

¹² In the opinion of the author of this report, it would be unusual to fence an off-leash area within Point Erin Park, considering that it would exclude other park users from the greenspace, and potentially lead to poor interactions with other dogs when their handlers assume less control of their dog because of the fenced area, compounded by the small scale of the space. Meola Reef Dog Park provides a good alternative large, fenced area nearby.

4 Interview summaries

Interviews were carried out with Brian Putt (St Mary's Bay Association), Alastair McLaren (Herne Bay Residents Association), Tania Donnianni (Gym Zone) and Kirsty Knowles (General Manager of Operation with Community Leisure Management) to identify the main uses of Point Erin Park and potential issues with the construction works for the Project proposed within the Park. Interviewees noted, in their opinion:

Residents Associations

- While Point Erin Park is sparsely used over winter – and mostly for off-leash dog activities – it can be busy over summer.
- Use of the open greenspace for group gatherings is often centred nearest the Pool, west of the carpark. Personal trainers often use the greenspace for small exercise groups.
- Up to ten to 15 dog walkers might be using the Park at the same time during busy periods (tossing balls and generally playing about). Otherwise, the Park is normally quiet.
- The grassed area near the Pool to the west of the carpark is consistently wet over winter.
- The recently sealed paths within the Park are well used, with that running from the corner of Curran and Sarsfield Streets to the north of the Pool and south beside the motorway the most popular – being part of an excellent longer walk including Westhaven. The road crossing at the corner of Curran and Sarsfield Streets is very busy.
- Completing fencing on the western side of the Park adjacent to Curran Street would improve safety, particularly considering off-leash dogs and balls.
- Restoration of the Park after recent works in the south-western corner was considered to be poorly carried out, with broken concrete and uneven surfaces remaining – although grass growth and mowing is slowing burying the rubble.

Community Leisure Management

- The Point Erin Pool is the main driver of activity over summer, with families picnicking on the grassed area near the Pool, with high levels of activity at the playground, and competition for car parking.
- The Pool opens in the first week of November and closes on the last week of March. Staff are onsite for a week prior and after opening. The busiest period is from November through to the end of January, with 30,000 to 40,000 visitors over January and approximately 60,000 for the whole season (weather dependent). Most users drive to the Pool, and the carpark is often full (always over January), with spill-over parking on Sarsfield Street – often on the grass. Outside January busy periods are after school and during the weekends. Buses service school visits during the school day, arriving between 9.30 and 10am, departing near 2.30pm. Ambulance access to the Pool is essential.
- The pool infrastructure, including underground pipework and the structure of the pool itself, is old and likely sensitive to vibration.

Gym Zone

- Gym Zone organises Gymnastics in the Park for Out and About Auckland, and uses Point Erin Park two to three times each summer. They use only a small area of the Park for each event.

5 Observational analysis

An observational analysis of use of the greenspace area where the construction activity is proposed was undertaken in December 2022. An observational analysis involves an observer recording observed activities but not interviewing people. The intention of the study was to identify and locate the main casual patterns of use of the Point Erin Shaft Site which will be affected by the Project. Observations were carried out over six different days of the week – with a mix of mornings and afternoons – during fine and warm weather between 25 November and 13 December 2022.

The study must be considered indicative only and carried out to support the other data presented. Twenty-four hours of observation were carried out over six days. The location, form and duration of all activities were recorded. A total of 634 individuals was observed (in groups or individually – skewed somewhat by one group of approximately 200 school children on their way to the Pool which massed in the NE corner of the greenspace for just under 30 minutes) over the 24 hours, giving an average use level of 26 people per hour (or 18 excluding the school group).

Table 1 summarises the activities recorded, the total number of individuals observed, mean group size and their location by quarter of the greenspace used (see Figure 10). For the latter – location by quarter of the greenspace used – one park visitor could be recorded multiple times as they moved through the area (with 1,012 counts of activity by quarter).

Results – including and excluding the large school group – are shown Table 1, with activity spread evenly over the four quarters of the survey area – but skewed to the NE if the school group is included. The most common activity was dog walking (almost 38% of use excluding the school group). Walking and running were recorded mostly in the SW corner, where those traversing the paths in the SE and NW corners convene. Walking in the NE quarter focused mainly on the path immediately to the south-west of the Pool as shown in the Strava heatmap in Figure 8. Pedestrian patterns confirmed those shown in Figure 8.

Lunching or picnicking were more likely to occur in the NE corner compared with the remainder of the greenspace – focused on the picnic table located there. One event was observed in the north-east corner of the SE quarter with 48 children and adults – recorded as ‘playing/children’



– on the 26th of November (a Saturday). This was an Out and About event organised by Gym Zone.¹³

Table 1: Activity summary by individuals observed, group size and greenspace quarter							
Activity	% all visitors	% all visitors ex school	Mean group size	Count			
				NW	NE	SE	SW
Dog walking	26	38	3	104	110	83	103
Walking	18	27	2	57	39	30	80
School group to pool	32		200		200		
Playing/children	8	12	18	5	5	51	
Relaxing/sitting	5	7	3	1	6	24	9
Lunch/picnicking	4	6	5	10	23	5	
Running	3	5	2	12	3	2	21
Cycling	2	3	2	7	4	6	9
Reading sign	<1	<1	2		2		
Camping	<1	<1	2			2	
Total count	634	434		196	392	203	221
Percent	100			19	39	20	22
% ex school		100		24	24	25	27

Table 2 describes the mean, least and longest duration of participation in each activity within the Point Erin Shaft Site, and describes any matters which potentially skew the results.

Table 2: Duration of activity – minutes				
Activity	Mean	Least	Longest	Notes
Playing/children n=53	67	17	215	Only three groups were observed for this activity – one of 48 which stayed for the longest. The others were groups of 2 and 3.
Lunch/picnicking n=27	54	7	170	The longest was a family group of 4 with sun tents set up in the north-east of the SE quarter.
Relaxing/sitting n=32	22	2	70	
Cycling n=14	7	1	65	Longest was two boys in SE who remained playing on surveyor's departure. All others 1 minute or less
Dog walking n=167	8	1	64	75% of observations were 10 min or less
School group n=1	28	28	28	Approx 200 in group
Walking n=117	2	1	11	
Running n=22	1	1	8	
Camping n=2	?	?	?	Departed when surveyor arrived on site. Had apparently camped by bench overnight in SE corner

¹³ Pers. comm., Tania Donnianni – see Section 4

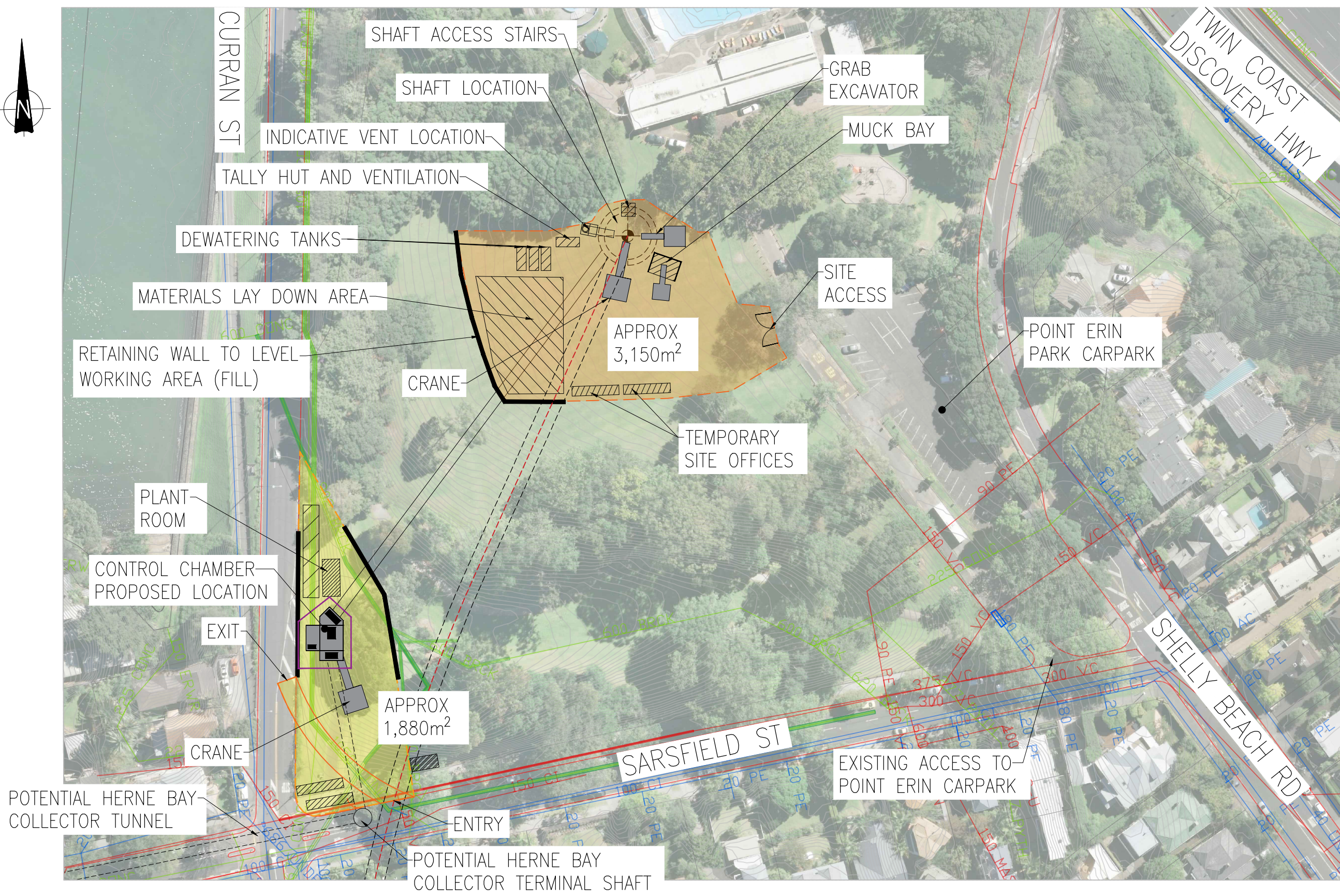
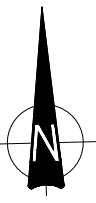
6 Effects summary

Table 3 summarises the main recreational activities occurring within Point Erin Park, the potential or actual effects of the proposed construction works for the Project and the recommended response / mitigation.

Table 3: Activity summary by greenspace quarter and construction effects		
Activity	Effect	Recommended response
Point Erin Swimming Pool	Parking and vehicle access	Traffic assessment by Tonkin + Taylor
	Construction vibration on aged pool infrastructure	Noise and vibration assessment by Tonkin + Taylor
Off leash dog activities	Temporary reduction in scale of greenspace during construction	Remaining greenspace most likely adequate for continuing activity due to remaining scale of greenspace and the level of activity reported in the observational analysis and interviews. Signs are recommended to direct users to northern area of Park, plus signs about construction
Picnic and socialising activities near the Pool	Temporary displacement during construction. The greenspace will remain quite legible during the process, and users will be readily able to locate alternative open space within the Park.	Construction progress signs are maintained on-site to advise recreational users of the rationale for and timing of the Project. The picnic table in the north-western corner is relocated to an appropriate site within the Park, such as the north-east corner of the SE quarter which appears to be a popular site for relaxing. The construction site fencing is maintained to a high and graffiti-free standard. Attached art work could be an option, along with a viewing window into the construction area for park users to monitor progress.
Use of walk and cycle ways within the Park, particularly as part of longer walks via Westhaven etc.	Potential loss of access via paths. The observational analysis indicate that the paths are the most-used features of the affected greenspace.	Walking, dog walking, running and cycling passage is supported via, as much as possible, maintaining the existing access routes near their current locations, and/or providing similar connections with appropriate wayfinding signs.
Displacement of small-scale community events.	There should be adequate space remaining within the Park for these events, but the construction activity could limit the scope for some event activities.	Event managers (see Section 3.2) are advised of the activity to enable forward planning.

Post construction, effects of the permanent vent stack and the plant room arise from the addition of new built structures in park greenspace which are not associated with recreation. Effects have the potential to be measurable if there is a recreation development proposal for the Park which is compromised by the location of immovable infrastructure. The scale of effect will depend on the proposed development and its ability to work around the Central Interceptor assets. There are no redevelopment proposals for the Park under consideration currently. Regardless, their design should be carried out in consultation with mana whenua, Auckland Council Parks Department and the local board (depending on their interest) as part of the wider park re-instatement programme.

Appendix 1: Development proposal



KEY

	MAIN CONSTRUCTION AREA
	SOUTH-WESTERN CONSTRUCTION AREA