

## ARPASS Informal Recreation on Regional Open Space Project

There are a wide range of informal outdoor recreational activities<sup>1</sup> undertaken within the Auckland region which make an important contribution to our quality of life. As these activities grow in popularity and participation increases the demands placed on regional open spaces also grows.

It is unrealistic to assume that the region can meet these demands solely through the purchase of additional open space alone, due to land and financial constraints. The challenge is to gain a better understanding of existing and potential informal recreational activities, their impacts and how we can meet demand through a range of approaches. These approaches may include optimising existing sites, developing management and use agreements, new strategic land acquisition and implementing different management techniques.

The study falls under Goal 2 'implement regional initiatives that increase Auckland physical activity levels' of the Auckland Regional Physical Activity and Sports Strategy (ARPASS). The study has two core intentions. The first is to identify current and future demand for informal recreational activities. The second is to identify opportunities to meet demand (i.e. supply).

**The objectives of the study are therefore:**

- To provide a robust understanding of the current and future demand for the identified informal recreation activities taking into account population increase, recreational trends and participation numbers.
- An evaluation of the issues each activity faces including competing demands for limited open space, impacts on other users, conflict between activities and impact on the environment.
- Identify the gaps in the provision of regional open space to meet the demands identified for informal recreation activity and recommend a series of potential solutions to inform the decision making of the new Auckland Council.

**The study is not intended to provide:**

- A detailed future acquisition strategy for public open space for the new Auckland Council.
- A detailed assessment of individual sites, or to identify site specific solutions, management agreements or access arrangements.
- A value judgement of the relative merits of one informal recreational activity over another.
- A value judgement of the merits of an activity based on its potential environmental impact.

**Project Scope:**

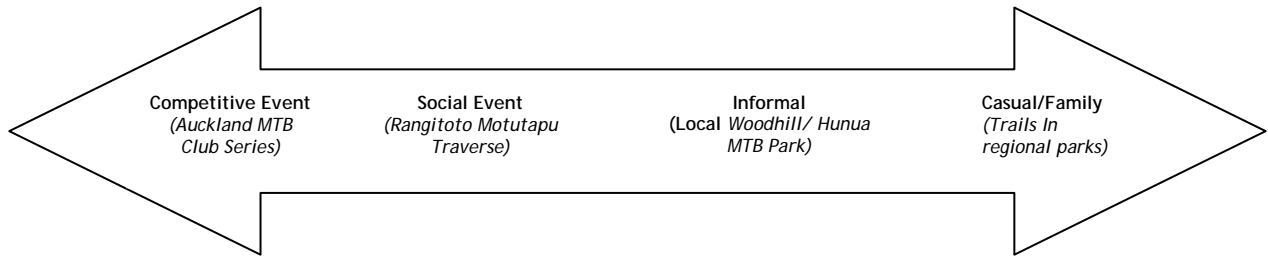
To provide a detailed report that identifies the demand for informal recreation activities occurring on regional open space across the Auckland region, with particular regard to the following informal recreation activities: off road running, adventure running, run series (off road), orienteering, mountain biking/off road family cycling, multisport events (off road), horse riding, off road motorised recreation and tramping/walking.

In considering each of these informal recreational activities the study acknowledges that there is a continuum within each activity from (semi) formal events through to casual participation. It is intended

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this study informal outdoor recreational activities are defined as activities that often require larger areas of open space and do not include activities undertaken in for example, neighbourhood parks such as outdoor basketball.

that the study will cover the full spectrum of activity. For example, in the case of mountain biking the continuum would look like this:



A high level assessment of Auckland's open space will be undertaken to help identify the gaps and opportunities to meet the indentified recreational demand. This may include creating recreational routes, potential additions to the network and management options to secure recreational access.