

work in progress

Wai Mauri Stream Park

Sunfield Stream Remediation
Landscape Design Report

studiopacificarchitecture

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Section One

Project Background

project background

introduction

Purpose of this report

Located in the south-east corner of the Sunfield site is a natural inland wetland of approximately 3,930 m² in area. The ecological value of this natural inland wetland has been assessed by Bioresach as Low.

Sunfield Developments Limited and the Iwi Authorities identified this area as being ripe for significant remediation, enhancement and restoration which would see the area transformed and the ecological value elevated. Once this transformation is complete, the Wai Mauri Stream Park will become a valuable asset for not only the residents of Sunfield but also the wider community.

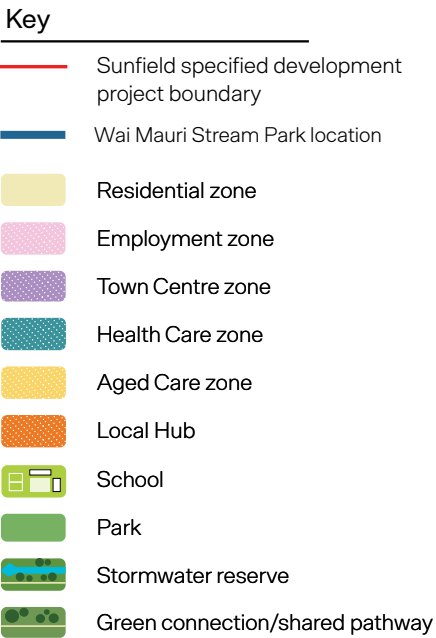
This design report is a working document which has been prepared with input from Sunfield Developments Limited and each of the 6 Iwi Authorities who are engaged on the Sunfield project.

The following sections describe the landscape approach for the Sunfield Stream Remediation and creation of Wai Mauri Stream Park which is proposed to be located in the south-east corner of the Sunfield Community Masterplan. It sets out:

- the landscape strategies which underpin the Sunfield Stream Remediation approach, which have been derived from regional, context and site analysis as well as cultural values assessment
- the zoning and layout of the proposed park, including water, land and social habitat components
- further detail and description of Wai Mauri Stream Park including an indicative planting palette, place-making opportunities and sketches.

Site location

Sunfield Community Masterplan is located in Papakura/Ardmore. It is approx. 2km to the East of Papakura and Takanini. Wai Mauri Stream Park is located at the south-east corner of the masterplan on Old Wairoa Road. It is located within the Mixed Rural/Urban Zone and bordered by the Future Urban Zone within the Auckland Unitary Plan.



project background

cultural values & narrative

Mana Whenua Relationship to Papakura-Takanini

Papakura means “flat area of red soil” or “ruddy plain”, “papa” implying “earth, flat or level” and “kura” meaning “red or ruddy”. It has been said that these red soils were formed by the Waiohūa deity Mataoho, who is the guardian of all the volcanic activity and lava forms of Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland. Others contribute the meaning of Papakura, the tradition being that the ‘kura’ was the name of one of the larger species of moa. It was so called because of its ruddy or dull feathers. Historically, the moa came down from the higher ridge of the Papakura/ Drury Hills and fed on pātītī (herbage) that grew and flourished on the open lowlands of Papakura.

Papakura was a significant area for mana whenua, who lived in the area for many centuries. They relied on the rich natural resources of the region, including the fertile soils, kauri forests, waterways, and the extensive wetland network, for their livelihood. Takānini is also culturally significant area for mana whenua. Traditionally, Takānini was covered by kauri forests, and peat swamplands dominated the natural features of the area.

Archaeological evidence shows a clear pattern of Māori settlement, particularly focused on the promontory headland areas of Takānini that jut out into the Pāhurehure inlet (near the present-day Waiata Shores residential development). These wāhi nohoanga (seasonal encampment sites) provided easy access to the Pāhurehure Inlet, the Manukau Harbour, and its tributaries for seasonal fishing, shellfish collection, and harvesting of resources.

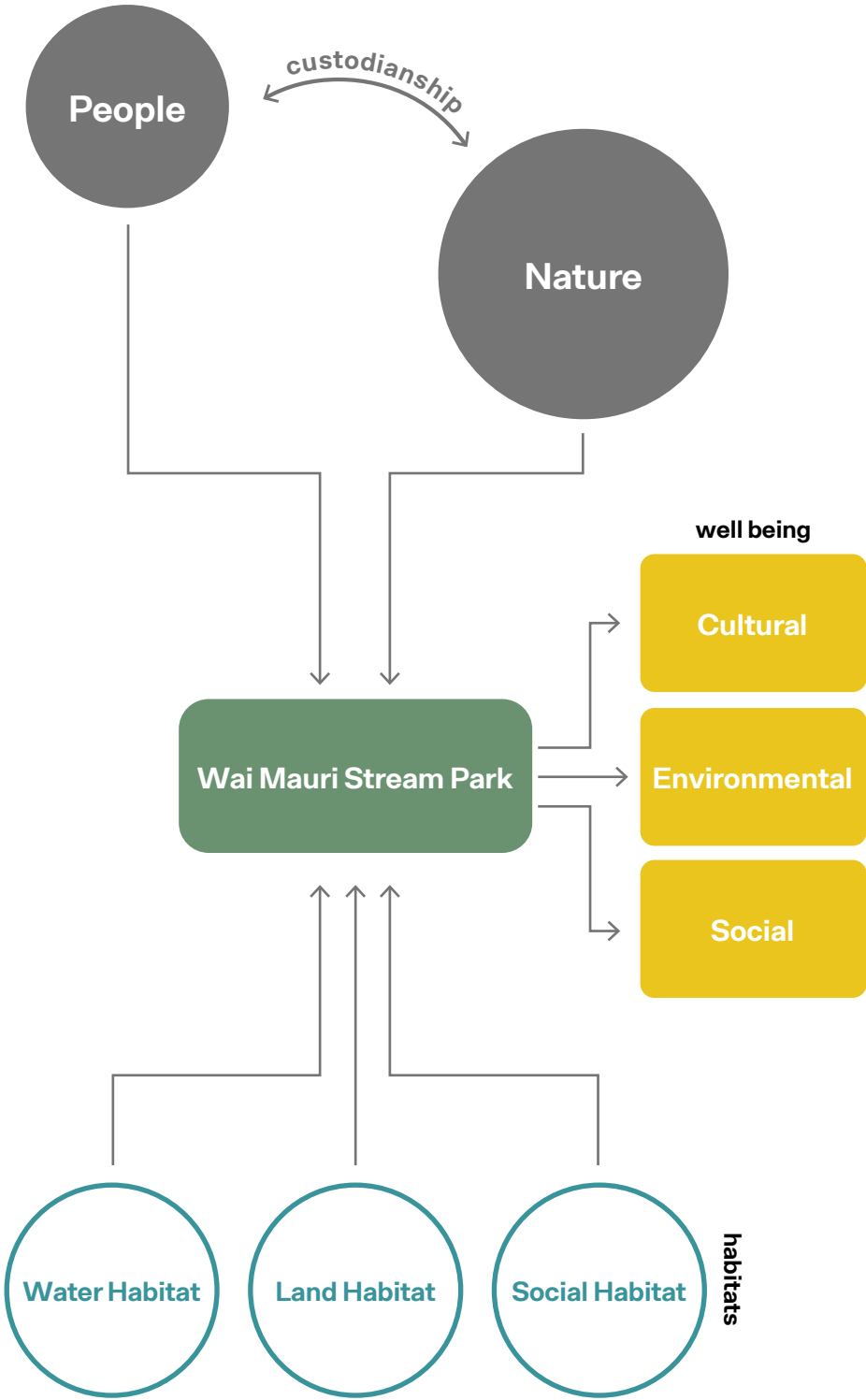
Opportunities within Sunfield Stream Remediation

Wai Mauri Stream Park within the Sunfield Community Masterplan is envisioned as a place that prioritises both people and nature. The proposals aim to foster and enhance the connection between tangata (people) and te taiao (environment). The stream, its tributaries, and the links both upstream and downstream are to be celebrated, cherished, activated, honoured, and maintained. The park is designed to empower people, including residents and users, to act as custodians and guardians of this natural environment.

There are further opportunities to weave stories into the park and consider how the Mana Whenua relationship to the landscape might be expressed. Key place-making opportunities are to be identified and their detail fleshed out with Mana Whenua partners and stakeholders.

The overarching focus of the park is to centre around fostering the three well-beings: cultural, environmental, and social. This is complemented by the emphasis on three habitats: water habitat, land habitat, and social habitat (including school / community group involvement). These aspects will be clearly defined and form the foundation for the park’s design and implementation.

The proposed masterplan aims to connect the stream park ‘Wai Mauri’ back to Awakeri Wetlands through an integrated stormwater network. This initiative not only serves as an essential infrastructure development but also holds significant cultural significance from a mana whenua perspective. By merging the two waters, it strengthens their life-force and enhances the vitality of the surrounding environment, including Sunfield. The incorporation of wayfinding elements in the placemaking aspect of the plan will be aligned with this “strong centre,” fostering a sense of connection and navigation within the community.



Reference: Ngāti Te Ata Waiohūa Cultural Values Assessment Report (Nov 2023)

project background

cultural values & narrative

Proposed name for park

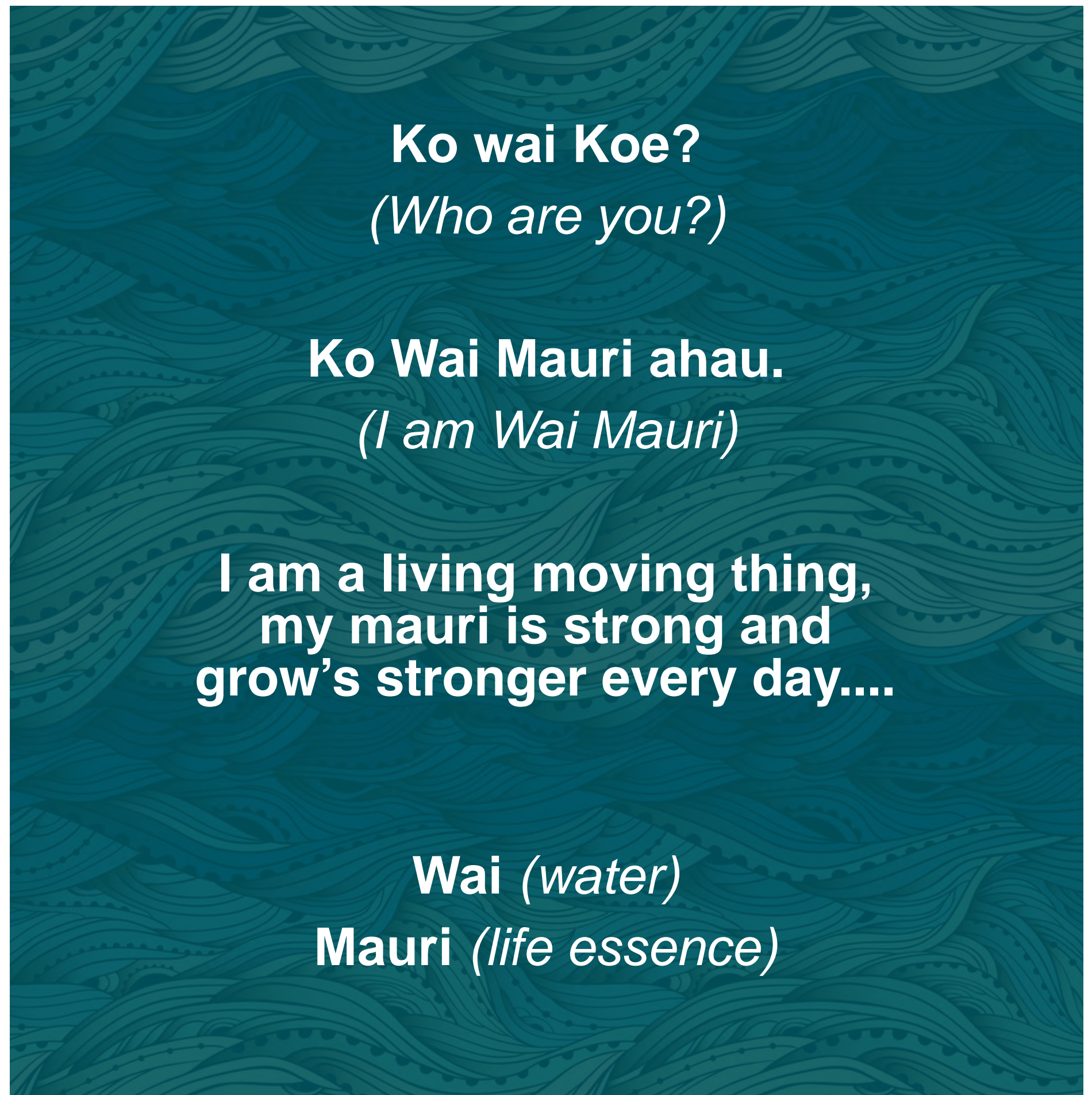
Wai Mauri

Wai means water. This not only references the streambeds running through the park, but also provides a 'healing' characteristic, aligning with the remediation / regeneration aspirations of the park. For mana whenua, water is revered for its healing properties for whanau / families, and in turn for the future Sunfield communities.

Mauri means 'life essence'. This provides the aspiration to revitalise the life-giving energy of the stream / waterway e.g. kids voices, adults talking / exercising, birds returning, planting / growth occurring.

The name Wai Mauri inspires us all including future generations at Sunfield to 'lift the bar', ensuring continued revitalisation and enhancing that mauri and overall health of the water, greenway and park.

Reference: Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū Cultural Values Assessment Report (Nov 2023)

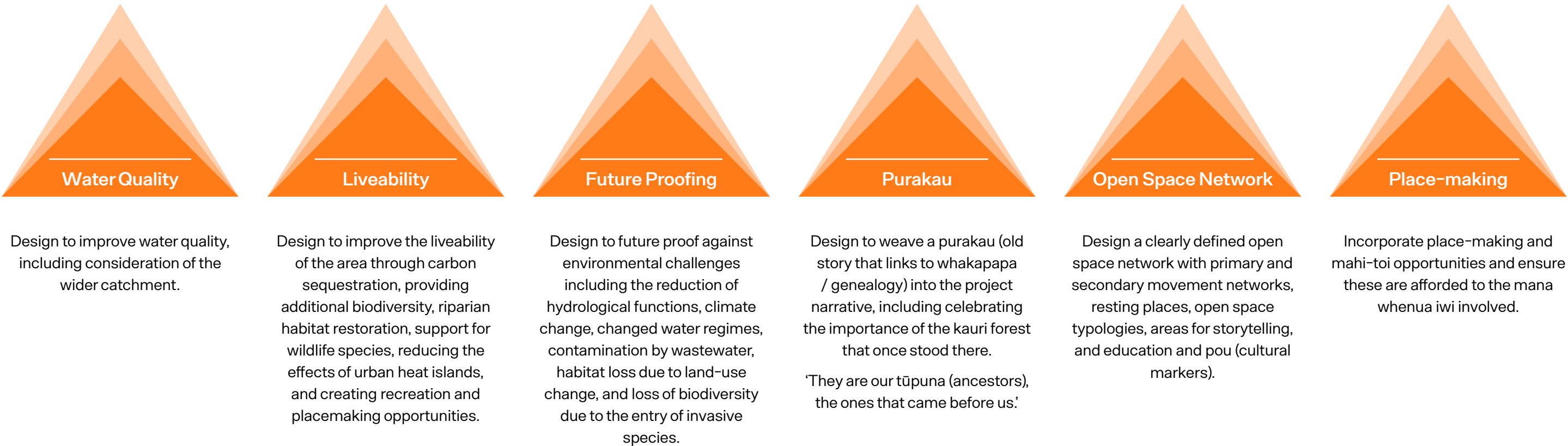


project background

cultural values & narrative

Design Outcomes

protection, preservation and appropriate management of natural and cultural resources in a manner that recognises and provides for Mana Whenua interests and values, and enables positive cultural, environmental, social and economic outcomes.



Section Two

Design Proposal

design proposal

purpose and outcomes

The design purpose of Wai Mauri Stream Park within the Masterplan is to create a distinctive and immersive natural environment, fostering a harmonious relationship between people and nature. The park's large scale and proposed character as a highly natural, re-vegetated, and wooded space make it unique both within the masterplan and the wider context, providing an ecological haven within a mixed rural-urban landscape. The overarching goals are to promote environmental sustainability, community well-being, and educational opportunities.

Wai Mauri Stream Park aims to seamlessly weave together the Water, Land, and Social Habitats, creating a dynamic and interconnected environment. It is to be considered as a living canvas; interwoven with cultural narrative, storytelling, history, place-making, and interpretation. With overarching principles of ecological sustainability and community well-being, the park seeks to evoke a sense of pride and connection among its users.



Water Habitat

Purpose:
Enhance and preserve the health of the water ecosystem, emphasising the importance of the stream and its tributaries.

- Outcomes:**
- Implement measures to improve water quality, including natural filtration systems and habitat restoration.
 - Incorporate artworks or installations that tell stories about the cultural and historical importance of the stream, including interpretative signage that highlights the indigenous perspectives on water and its role in shaping the community.
 - Establish a balance between human interaction and ecological preservation to safeguard the aquatic habitat.



Land Habitat

Purpose:
Facilitate re-vegetation efforts and create a diverse landscape that supports local flora and fauna.

- Outcomes:**
- Implement significant re-vegetation initiatives, restoring native plant species and creating a biodiverse habitat, including opportunities for the input of local communities, for activities such as pest management or plant propagation.
 - Design routes to encourage exploration while minimising ecological impact.
 - Integrate native vegetation into play spaces, creating immersive and educational environments for park users.
 - Incorporate indigenous plant species with cultural significance, promoting an understanding of their historical uses.



Social Habitat

Purpose:
Cultivate a sense of community, well-being, and foster a sense of place and cultural identity within the park environment.

- Outcomes:**
- Provide open expanses for informal activities such as bush walking, dog walking, and exercise, promoting a healthy lifestyle.
 - Incorporate formal recreation provisions, including thoughtfully designed play spaces and community areas, fostering social interaction.
 - Integrate educational elements, such as interpretative signage to promote community awareness and environmental education.
 - Implement place-making elements, such as public art or landmarks, that reflect the rich cultural history of the community.

design proposal

water habitat



Water Habitat

Purpose:
Enhance and preserve the health of the water ecosystem, emphasising the importance of the stream and its tributaries.



Streambank planting



Opportunities to access water



Streambank planting



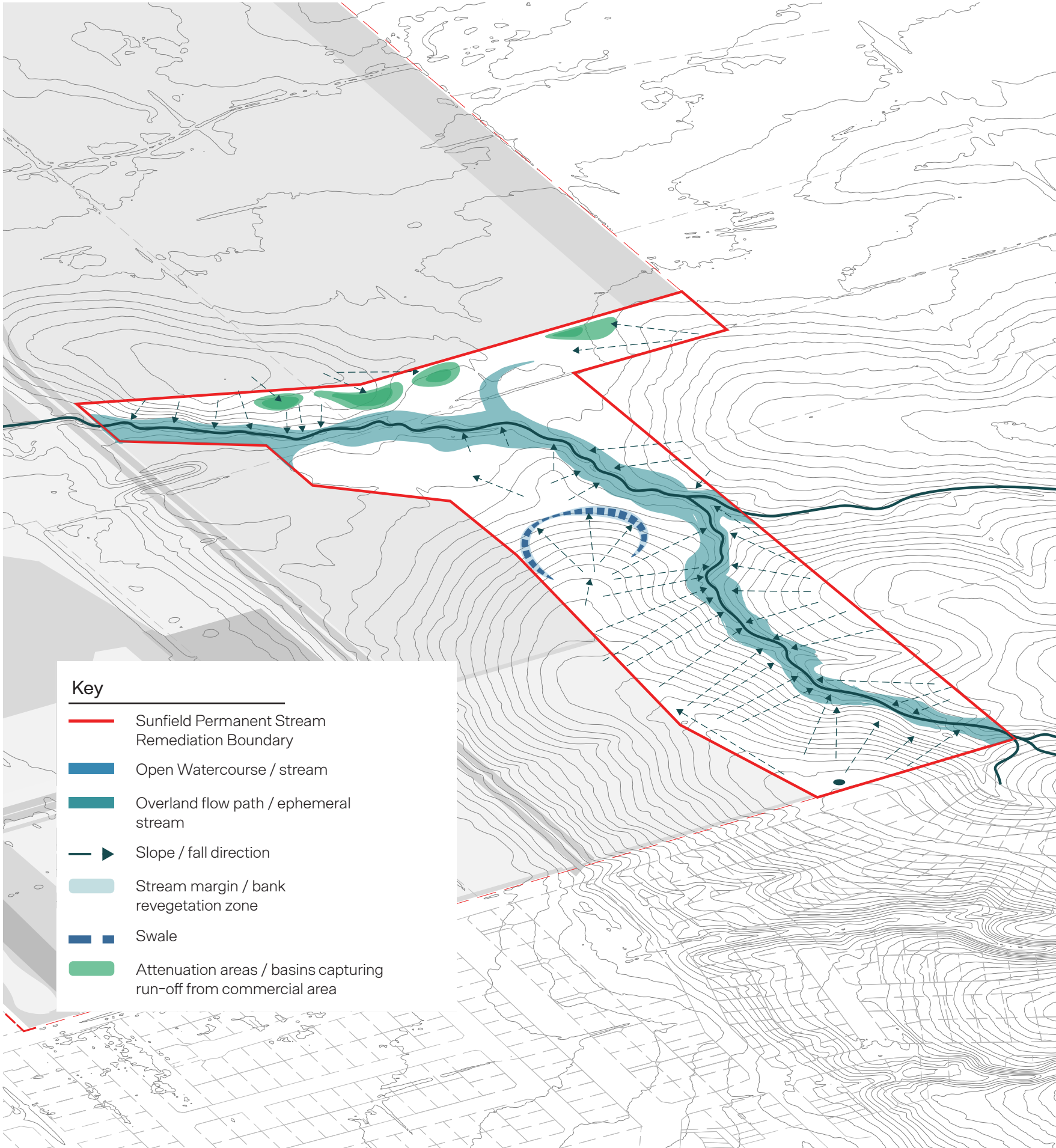
Swale feature



Monitoring stations



Attenuation areas



design proposal

land habitat



Land Habitat

Purpose:
Facilitate re-vegetation efforts and create a diverse landscape that supports local flora and fauna.



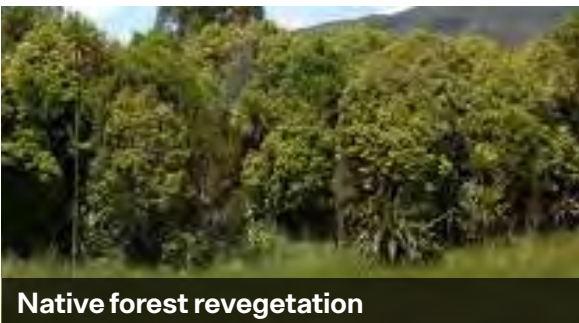
Encourage exploration



Indigenous plant species



Community Orchard



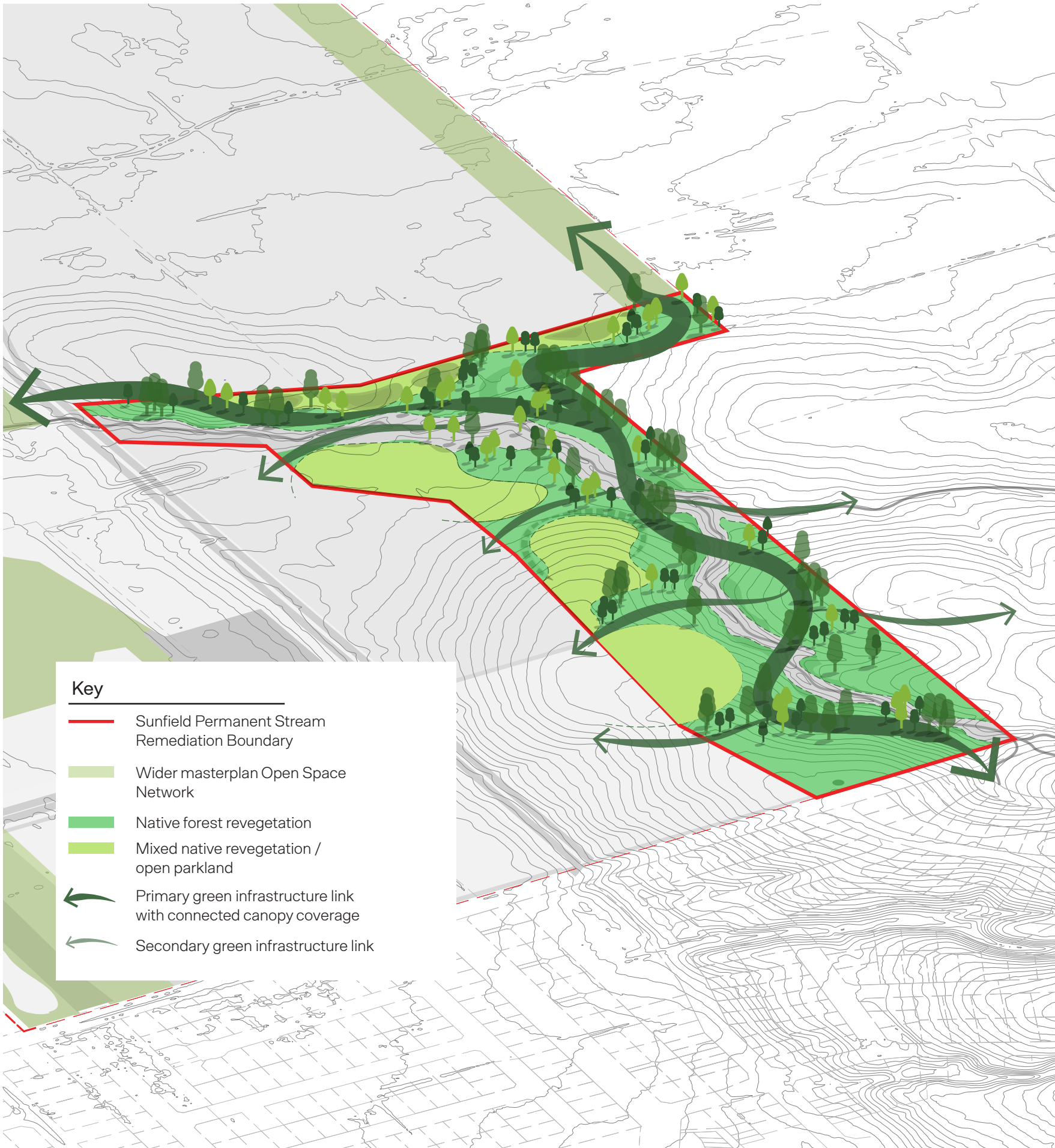
Native forest revegetation



Community management



Mixed native shrubs and grasses



design proposal

social habitat



Social Habitat

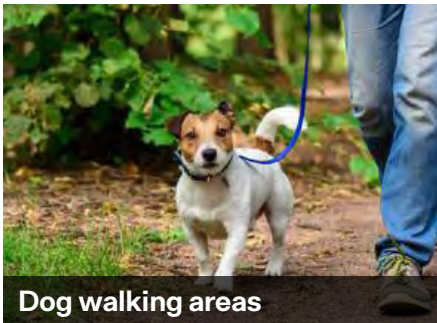
Purpose:
Cultivate a sense of community, well-being, and foster a sense of place and cultural identity within the park environment.



Natural play space



Shared cycle and pedestrian path



Dog walking areas



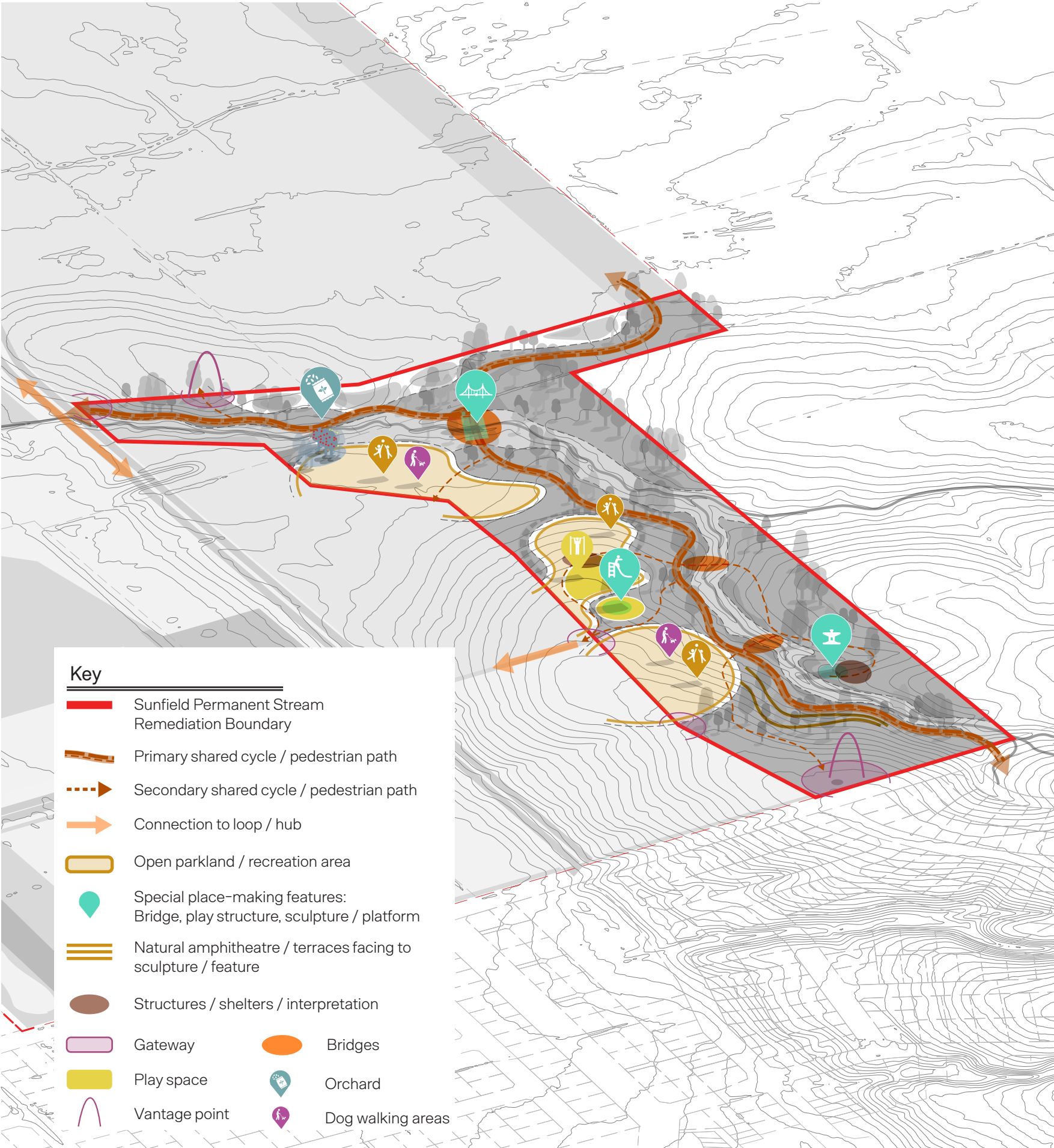
Natural amphitheatre



Structures / shelters



Bridges / boardwalks



design proposal

illustrative masterplan

Masterplan

Wai Mauri Stream Park centres around the open stream, which is to be flanked by wooded areas featuring walking tracks through native bush. These paths wind naturally through the surroundings taking account of steeper slopes to manage gradients and mitigate the need for stairs, offering a gentle setting for walking and exploration. Along the stream banks a lower-growing margin planting typology is proposed, allowing natural light and views to the stream as well as improving water quality.

Adjacent to the proposed residential areas, the park transitions into a more utilitarian space. Open grassy areas are designated for activities such as play, exercise, dog walking, picnics, and yoga. This section of the park is designed to be functional, catering to the daily needs of the community.

A small community orchard is suggested near the proposed later living village, providing residents with an opportunity for shared cultivation and fostering a sense of community engagement. Positioned closest to the hub connection is the social/gathering heart of the park, including facilities, play space, exercise provisions and a shade structure.

Gateways are strategically positioned to facilitate connectivity to the broader network of open spaces, existing and planned residential areas, and the commercial district. These gateways prioritise practical access and contribute to an integrated green space network within the community.

