

Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest

Plan for Autumn – Winter, 2016

28 March 2016

Report from the planning workshop held at:
The Woolshed, Pukerua Bay



Organisation structure

The Community Food Forest Garden operates through the Pukerua Bay Residents' Association, which is an incorporated society, and includes its financial management.

Garden principles

These were arrived at through consensus. The garden is:

- to be a permanent garden, planned for longevity;
- to be an ecologically sustainable system;
- aligned with permaculture ethics and principles, and organic practices;
- to provide an educational resource;
- to engage the local community, as a school resource and as a social venue;
- to be a potential portal to other local projects – e.g. artwork, sculpture, walkways;
- to provide a focus for value exchange or a gift economy; and
- to promote resilience, in community, food, water, and knowledge resources.

Planning mandala

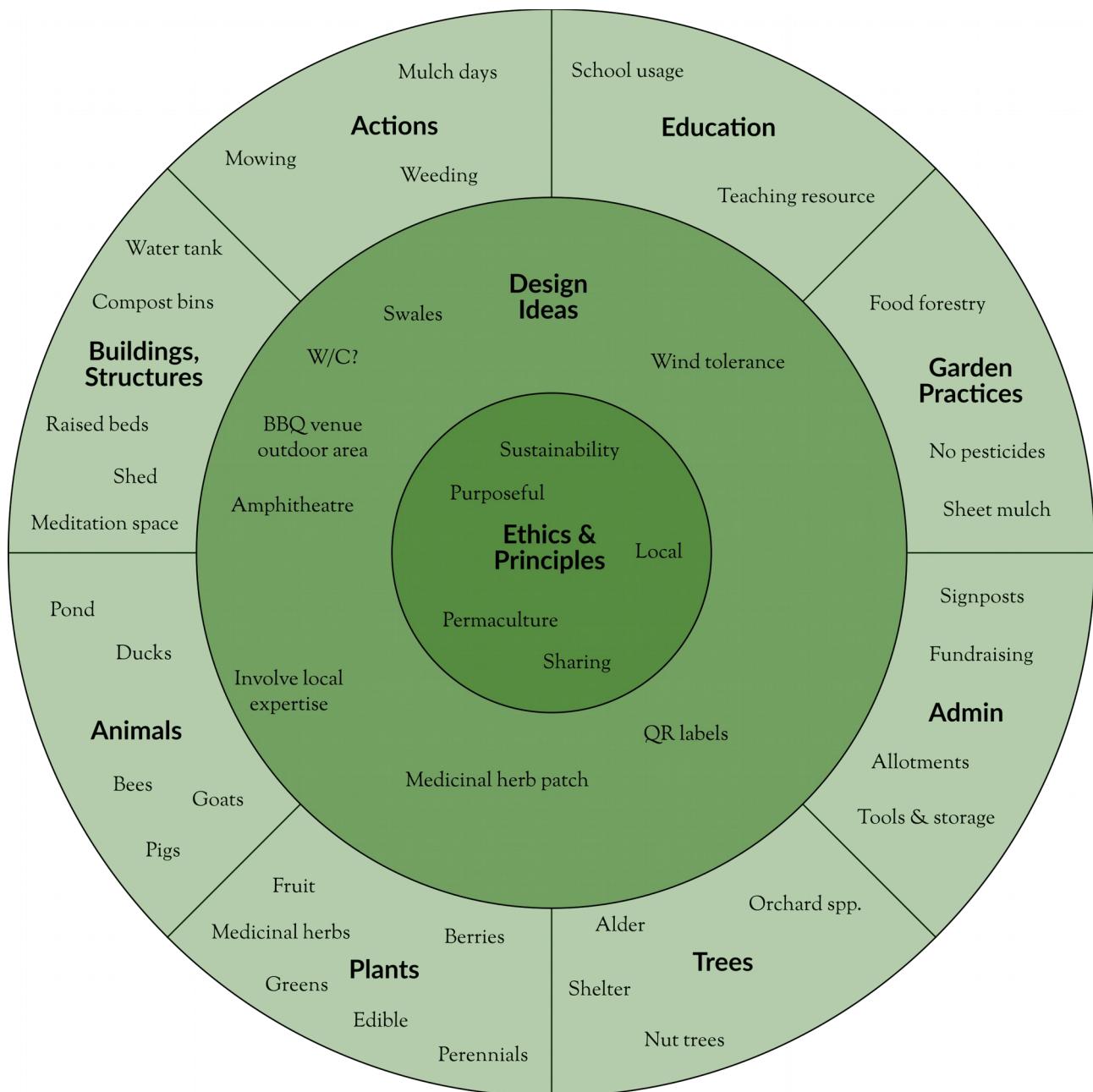


Figure 1: The planning mandala from the workshop; brainstorming ideas onto sticky notes, and arranging them into these categories provided guidance for our garden planning.

Not all of these ideas may be feasible on residential zoned Reserve Act land, such as keeping certain livestock, or maintaining a public toilet.

Proposed garden layout

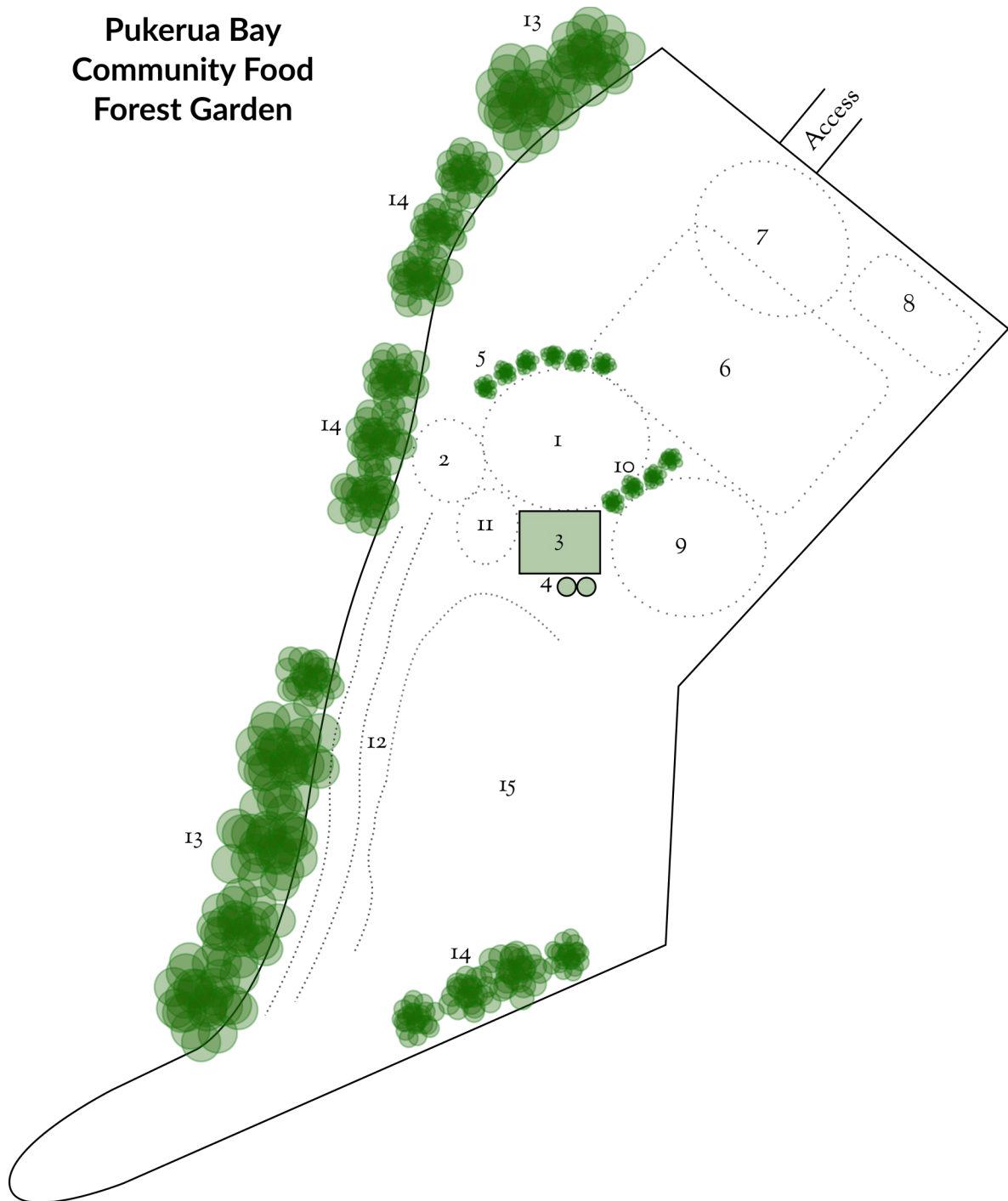


Figure 2: Proposed garden layout.

Key

1. Outdoor common gathering area and meeting space.
2. Pizza oven amphitheatre, seating built into the hillside.
3. Potting and tool shed.
4. Water tanks, fed by guttering from the shed.
5. Shelter for common area, e.g. olives, holly oak, feijoa.
6. Allotment area.
7. Vehicle turn-around area.
8. Compost station and mulch heaps.
9. Raised beds area.
10. Bamboo (non-spreading!) shelter and framing for hops.
11. Culinary herbs.
12. Swales, to retain soil moisture.
13. Larger shelter trees - walnut, chestnut.
14. Smaller shelter trees - pine nuts, holly oak, alder.
15. Food forest area; initial year of planting will be nursery species (tagasaste, lavender) with some wind- and drought-tolerant varieties of feijoa, apple and pear. See planting guide for more information.

Notes

Suggested varieties that are doing well in nearby gardens: apples - Irish Peach, Priscilla; Golden Russet and Yarlington Mill for cider. Pears: Packham's Triumph. Any feijoa; 3 mixed varieties to pollinate. Plum: Black Doris, Damson, Hawera; Victory, Opal for good pollinators.

Te Kahuri Nurseries are a good source of organically raised good-sized fruit trees.

Food forest understory layers to be planned 2-3 years after nursery planting, once established and soil is developing.

Actions

1. Follow up vehicle access to the site.
2. Draw up the plan including guiding principles, and submit to Porirua City Council for planning.
3. Obtain pH soil testing equipment for soil tests.
4. Organise a shed plan. Placement, building plan, water tanks and guttering.
5. Fertilisers and materials: lime, seaweed, biochar/coffee grounds, garden waste, mowing mulch, gib offcuts, cardboard, pallets.
6. Build compost station from pallets, in the corner out of the way of vehicle access.
7. Obtain plants: tagasaste, lavender, apples, feijoas, blackcurrants.
8. Swale earthworks (obtain use of a Bobcat?)
9. Mow the area, collect the mulch into compost station (or at least, a big heap for later)
10. Allotments: 3-4 raised beds, 1.2 – 3 metres, over winter, ready for spring planting.

Immediate steps

1. Draw up the plan
2. Submit plan to PCC
3. Mow
4. Build compost station
5. Acquire and plant nursery trees, and drought- and wind-resistant trees. Tagasaste, lavender, feijoas, some apple varieties.