

Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest

Plan for 2017/18

15 March 2017

Annual gardening plan, for the Porirua City Council Parks department



Pukerua Bay Residents' Association



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Revision 1.0



Pukerua Bay Residents' Association, 2017.

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Background

The Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest (the “community garden”) operates through the Pukerua Bay Residents’ Association (PBRA), including fund-raising efforts and the financial management of the community garden. The Residents’ Association is an incorporated society which represents Pukerua Bay residents and several community groups and liaises on their behalf with council and government agencies, local businesses and other stakeholders.

Agreements are in place between the KiwiRail for access to the garden site on Muri Reserve, and Porirua City Council (PCC) for the required gardening licence.

Construction of vehicle access to the site will commence in March 2017, and there is also a request to run the PCC water supply into the site to provide water, which can hopefully happen at the same time.

Overall garden vision, organisational principles, site analysis, and long-term plan are covered in separate documents:¹

- The [Planting Guide](#) (November 2015)
- The [Garden Plan](#) from the 2016 Autumn Planning Workshop (March 2016)

¹ PDF documents are available on the Residents’ Association website, at <https://www.pukeruabay.org.nz/2016/03/28/community-garden/>

Proposed garden layout

Pukerua Bay Community Food Forest Garden

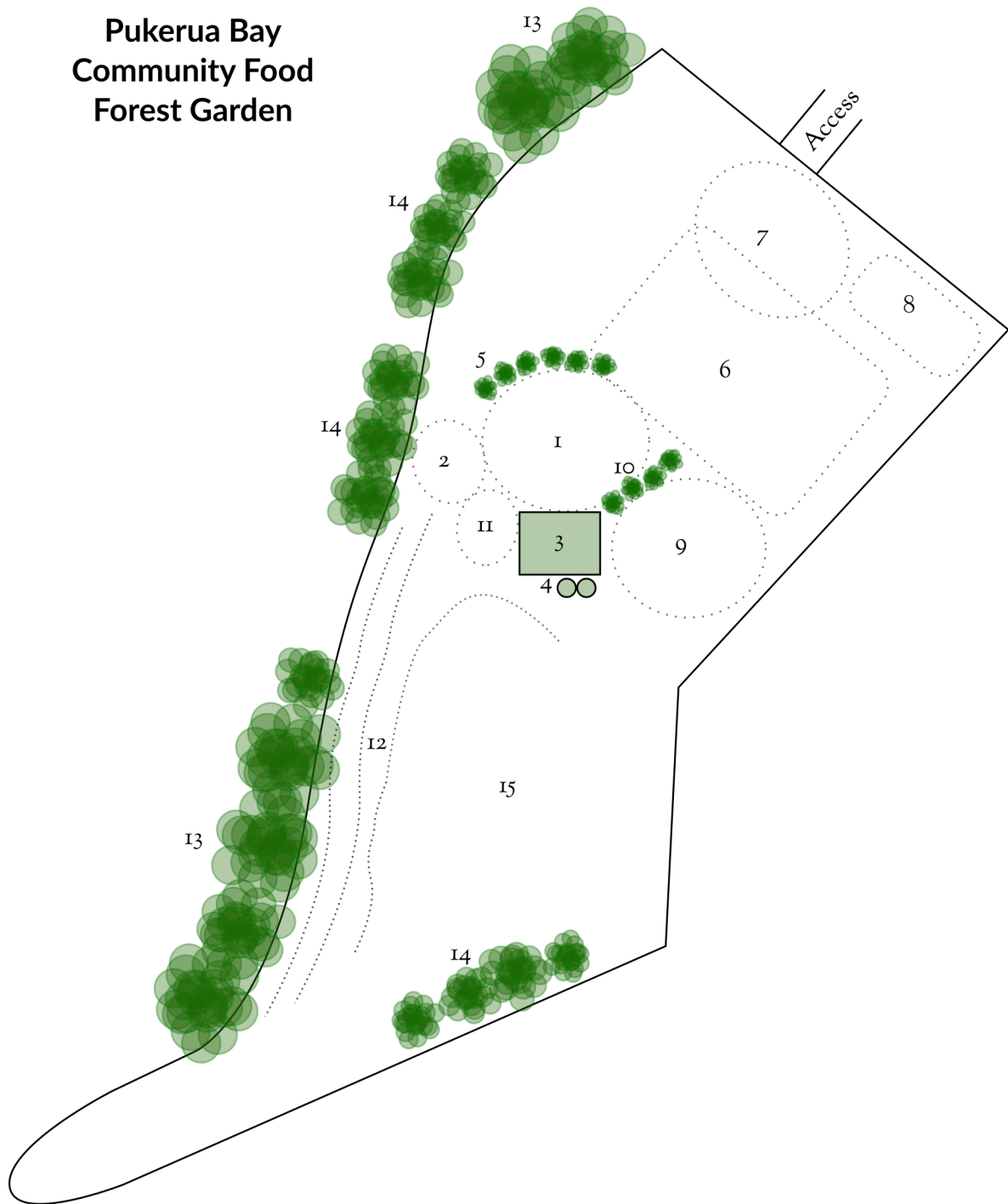


Figure 1: Proposed garden layout, from the Planning Workshop report (March 2016)

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.

Check list for the 2017/18 year

The initial work to start the community garden food forest will be principally about site clearance, soil improvement measures, construction of some of the initial structures, and planting the nursery layer.

We intend to execute the following actions, more or less in the order given:

1. Mow the site. Once the vehicle access is constructed, there is an option to get a tractor-drawn mower onto the site to mulch and provide starter material for the compost station (or take it away as hay, as payment).
2. Construct the composting station.
3. Construct the potting/tool shed (or move an existing shed onto the site, once the vehicle access is constructed).
4. Erect a small sign by the vehicle entrance gate.
5. Construct the allotments: 3-4 raised beds, 1.2 – 3 metres, over winter, ready for spring planting.
6. Minor earthworks, to cut 20-30 cm swale steps along contours in places (see *Planting Guide*).
7. Plant nursery trees (tagasaste and lavender) to improve the soil and shelter later trees.
8. Plant some of the orchard tree species that are tolerant of wind and poor soil (feijoa, bamboo, apple varieties “Irish Peach” and “Priscilla”).

Ongoing work

Weekend working bees

Throughout the next year, we plan to have fortnightly volunteer weekend working bees, where we attend to maintenance work such as weeding, mulching, watering, and general garden maintenance. Our guiding principles include only using organic and sustainable methods, no toxic sprays, and hand tools wherever possible. This work will also include any required *maintenance to the fencing* to maintain their condition as of the commencement of the gardening licence.

Garden waste days

We also plan to have occasional community garden waste days, approximately once every two months, where folks can bring their stockpiled garden waste to be chipped/mulched and donated to the community garden as compost or mulch. We will insist and ensure that donated material is free of noxious weeds, non-organic refuse or any other unsuitable material, although we don't expect too much trouble from the locals!