

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Purpose of this Reserve Management Plan	3
1.2	How to use this Reserve Management Plan.....	4
1.3	Statutory Requirements and Planning Context.....	5
1.3.1	Statutory Requirements	5
1.3.2	Planning Context	6
2	LOCATION AND CONTEXT	9
2.1	Reserve Location	9
2.2	Reserves Index and Classification	9
2.3	Sportsgrounds in Taupo.....	9
2.3.1	Characteristics Of A Sportsground	9
2.3.2	History Of Sportsgrounds In Taupo	10
2.3.3	Current Sportsground Provision	10
2.4	Future Sportsgrounds Provision and Development.....	11
2.4.1	Reserves Strategy	11
2.4.2	Population Trends.....	11
2.4.3	Future Development Areas.....	12
2.4.4	Monitoring And Review	12
2.5	Reserve Descriptions.....	13
2.5.1	Hickling Park.....	13
2.5.2	Owen Delany Park	14
2.5.3	Kaimanawa Reserve.....	16
2.5.4	Crown Park.....	17
2.5.5	Centennial Park.....	19
2.5.6	Waipahihi Sportsground	21
3	KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS.....	24
3.1	Landscape.....	24
3.1.1	Geothermal Features.....	24
3.1.2	Vegetation.....	24
3.1.3	Soils	24
3.1.4	Climate	25
3.2	Culture of sportsground use	25
3.3	Impacts of recreation and use	26
3.3.1	Allocation of grounds	26
3.3.2	Tournaments and events	27
3.3.3	Private buildings on reserves.....	28
3.3.4	Dogs on sportsfields.....	28
3.3.5	Camping.....	29
3.4	Adverse effects of use and development	29
3.4.1	Neighbouring properties	29
3.4.2	Transport networks.....	29
3.4.3	The environment	29
3.5	Provision of grounds and facilities by Council.....	30
3.5.1	Gaps in provision.....	30
3.5.2	Improvements to existing facilities.....	30
3.5.3	Maintenance standards.....	31
3.6	Safety and security	31
3.6.1	Damage and vandalism of property.....	32
3.6.2	Personal safety.....	32
3.7	Provision for future growth.....	32
3.8	Provision of land for commercial recreation	33

4	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES.....	34
4.1	Administration and Management.....	34
4.2	Cultural Heritage	34
4.3	Landscape and Natural heritage.....	35
4.4	Provision of Council sportsgrounds and facilities.....	36
4.5	Allocation of sportsfields	37
4.6	Events and permits	37
4.7	Leases, licences and easements.....	38
4.8	Management of adverse effects of activities	39
4.9	Safety and security	39
4.10	Restricted Activities.....	40
4.11	Maintenance Standards	40
4.12	Utility Services	40
4.13	Management of reserve boundaries.....	41
5	CONCEPT AND ACTION PLANS	42
5.1	Hickling Park Future Development Concept Plan	42
5.1.1	Action plan	42
5.2	Kaimanawa Reserve Future Development Concept Plan	44
5.2.1	Action plan	44
5.3	Waipahihi Reserve Future Development Concept Plan.....	46
5.3.1	Action plan	46
5.4	Centennial Park Future Development Concept Plan.....	48
5.4.1	Action plan	48
5.5	Crown Park Future Development Concept Plan.....	50
5.5.1	Action plan	50
5.7	Owen Delany Park Future Development Concept Plan.....	53
5.7.1	Action plan	53
 APPENDICES		
1.	Reserve Management Plan Process	56
2.	Sportsground Reserves Legal Descriptions and maps	57
3.	Leases on reserves	63
4.	References	64
5.	Bylaws and Legislation Defining Offences and Restricted Activities on Reserves	65

1 INTRODUCTION

The health benefits associated with sporting activities are well documented and understood. Physical activity has been shown to have a positive effect on physical and mental health, and is a factor in the reduction in obesity related illnesses, heart disease, and some forms of cancer. Social benefits are also significant, with sporting activity contributing greatly to social interaction, social cohesion and the structure of a community. Other benefits that may be derived from sport include economic, cultural identity and environmental.



Central to fostering a community's enjoyment of sports is providing areas that can accommodate a variety of recreational and sporting activities. Community neighbourhood reserves are ideal spaces for informal recreation. However, such are the requirements of various sporting codes that larger grounds must be provided for their use. These grounds must be of adequate size and contour to accommodate a range of sports fields and surfaces (e.g. netball and tennis courts), along with ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms, parking, and clubrooms.

There are a number of recreation reserves in the Taupo area that are used for sporting purposes. These reserves host a variety of sporting activities, are the home to many local clubs and organisations, and provide open space for general informal recreation and events. The development of a management plan encompassing all these reserves provides the opportunity to take a strategic overview of the provision of sporting opportunities for the local and wider community, the provision of land and facilities suitable to support that use, and the future management of the land and facilities provided. This includes identifying any gaps and any surpluses.

Taupo has a variety of sportsgrounds that cater to a wide range of needs. The sportsgrounds included in this management plan are Owen Delany Park, Crown Park, Centennial Park, Waipahihi Sportsground, Hickling Park, and Kaimanawa Reserve. Owen Delany Park is the district's premier sportsground. It has hosted high level sporting events such as Super 12 rugby and international cricket. The park is home to a number of sporting codes and recreation clubs. Hickling Park hosted an international hockey game in 2009. Together these six sportsgrounds adequately provide for current levels of sporting and recreational use. However, as Taupo continues to grow, current levels of provision may not be adequate to meet future demands or changing trends. This management plan reviews the current provision of sportsgrounds, and identifies changes that will be required in the short, medium and long-term future to meet current and future demands.

1.1 Purpose of this Reserve Management Plan

The purpose of this management plan is to support sporting and recreational activities in the Taupo community through appropriate provision and allocation of land, facilities and resources.

The Reserves Act 1977 requires the development of management plans for all reserves (except local and government purpose reserves). Management plans have previously been prepared for several of the reserves included in this management plan. These plans have been superseded by the Taupo Sportsground Management Plan.



Reserve management plans outline Council's general intentions and provide direction for the use, maintenance, protection and development of its reserves. They seek to balance the protection of natural resources and cultural values with the provision of recreational opportunities that are relevant to the needs of users, within the limits of the resources available.

The process of preparing a management plan provides the public with opportunities to take part in the decision making which will affect the future of the sportsgrounds. Public involvement provides Council with an understanding of relevant local issues from people who are familiar with and use the reserves. The process is outlined in Appendix 1.

The management plan can be amended so that it adapts to changing circumstances, or in accordance with increased knowledge.



1.2 How to use this Reserve Management Plan

PART 1

Introduces the Taupo Sportsgrounds Management Plan and reserve management plan process through the Reserves Act 1977, and explains the statutory, planning, and administrative framework in which the plan is developed.

PART 2

Provides details about the history, location and nature of Taupo's sportsgrounds, and their role in sporting and recreation activity in the district. Each of the six sportsgrounds included in the management plan are examined in terms of their history and environment. Current and future demands and reserve provision are also explored.

PART 3

Identifies key management issues and constraints associated with the Taupo Sportsgrounds. These have been identified through discussions with users, submissions from the public, and through Council staff knowledge and experience.

PART 4

Identifies the management objectives and policies for the Taupo sportsgrounds that are required to address the issues raised in Part 3.

PART 5

Provides concept plans and key actions for each of the six sportsgrounds. Concept plans provide a visual representation of the sportsgrounds and any changes proposed.

APPENDICES

Contains detailed material relating to particular aspects of the management plan.

1.3 Statutory Requirements and Planning Context

Reserve management planning is guided by various pieces of legislation and the broader aims, objectives and policies of Council including those developed in the District Plan and Long Term Council Community Plan. Other non-statutory planning documents relevant to reserves management also provide direction for the objectives and policies contained in management plans. These have been considered by the community and have been endorsed by Council. As such, they represent a set of commitments to a number of outcomes. This management plan must therefore have regard to the intentions of those documents.



1.3.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following outlines the key documents relating to the statutory framework within which the management plan has been prepared.

1.3.1.1 Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 is the primary piece of legislation for the administration of reserves. The purpose of this Act is:

- Providing for the preservation and management of areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public
- Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna
- Ensuring, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public
- Providing for the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape
- Promoting the protection of the natural character of the coastal environment and the margins of lakes and rivers

The preparation of reserve management plans is a requirement of Section 41 of the Reserves Act, and allows Council to establish policies for the management of reserves in consultation with the community. Management plans also allow Taupo District Council, as administering body of the reserves, to exercise a range of delegated powers with respect to leases, licences and easements.

1.3.1.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The RMA 1991 is a regulatory tool which applies to the management of land. The Act's purpose is "to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources".

Section 6 (Matters of National Importance), Section 7 (Other Matters) and Section 8 (Treaty of Waitangi) set out matters that are of importance to the management of land. Of these, the following are of particular relevance for consideration in relation to reserve management:

- The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development

- The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development
- The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers
- The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga
- Kaitiakitanga
- The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values
- Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment

The RMA is given effect on a local and regional basis through the Taupo District Plan and the Waikato Regional Plan.

1.3.1.3 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act is the central piece of legislation under which local authorities operate. The Act enables local decision making by and on behalf of citizens in their local communities to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities. It requires councils to consider the significance of proposed actions and to consult with potentially affected parties.



1.3.2 PLANNING CONTEXT

Key documents related to the planning framework within which the management plan has been prepared are:

1.3.2.1 Taupo District Plan (2007)

In meeting its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, Council must prepare a District Plan. This sets out the objectives, policies and rules

which control the scale, nature and location of the use and development of land within the Taupo District, including sportsgrounds.

The District Plan is based on several environments, within two of which the Taupo Sportsgrounds are located. These are:

1. Residential - generally an environment of residential properties
2. Rural - covers the majority of the Taupo District. The wide range of activities within this environment includes farming, horticulture, forestry, electricity generation, tourism and recreation.

The District Plan also contains rules for protection of Notable and Amenity trees. These trees are considered highly significant and worthy of protection. An amenity tree (*Quercus palustris*) is located on Kaimanawa Reserve.

Two designated sites give effect to a requirement made by a requiring authority for land to be designated for a particular purpose. These sites are the hockey turf, and an area set aside for road widening, both on Hickling Park.

Parts of Hickling Park and Owen Delany Park are identified as a 'Hot Ground' area. These areas are subject to geothermal activity and are identified as requiring a level of appropriate protection to ensure development does not increase the level of threat, or

increase the potential for hazards to occur in that area. Development standards differ slightly from the general standards of that environment.

Reference must be made to the District Plan in addition to any objectives and policies contained within this management plan.

1.3.2.2 Taupo District 2050 - Growth Management Strategy (2006)

This outlines where Council would prefer future growth to occur throughout the district, and the nature and scale of such growth. Future growth means greater use of recreational facilities such as the Taupo Sportsgrounds, and accordingly pressure upon them increases. TD 2050 guides other planning documents such as the District Plan.

1.3.2.3 Asset Management Plan - Parks and Reserves

Asset Management Plans (AMPs) form the basis of Council's planning for the operation, maintenance, renewal and development of its assets and therefore represent a significant portion of the work Council undertakes and its budget. Asset Management Plans are important for long term planning and the maintenance of Council's service capacity. These plans can be viewed on the Taupo District Council website.

The Asset Management Plan considers matters of:

- Levels of service required from parks
- Future demand for parks
- Lifecycle management of parks
- Financial requirements of parks
- Improvements in managing the parks' assets

Asset management plans respond to, and reflect, the strategic and policy directions set down in reserve management plans. The policies contained in reserve management plans, however, are themselves informed by the levels of service required from parks as set out in the asset management plans.

1.3.2.4 Recreation Strategy 2006

Identifies the strategic direction for Council's involvement in recreation. The Taupo Sportsgrounds are of particular importance within this as they are a key area where the community and visitors recreate.

1.3.2.5 Tree and Vegetation Policy 2005

Provides consistency to the decision making around the management of Council's vegetation and trees. The Taupo Sportsgrounds contain a substantial amount of trees and vegetation which can impact on users and surrounding properties.

1.3.2.6 Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010

Provides objectives and policies for the promotion of walking and cycling in the Taupo District. The Taupo Sportsgrounds are potentially a part of Taupo's walking and cycling network.

1.3.2.7 Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to identify the aspirations of the community with regard to present and future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. These community outcomes are used to prioritise the activities of

Council in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). From 2012, this will be known as the Long Term Plan (LTP).

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is Council's main planning document which establishes the activities that Council will undertake within a 10 year timeframe. It also identifies the funding that will be allocated to carrying out these activities. The LTP is the main tool used for resourcing and implementing reserve management plans, as without funding little development can be achieved. The LTP is reviewed every three years.

Key actions, projects and services included in the 2009 to 2019 LTCCP include construction of a security fence at the BMX track at Crown Park, irrigation at Owen Delany Park and Crown Park, development of new land, seating on the eastern embankment at the main stadium and a new administration and indoor training venue at Owen Delany Park.

1.3.2.8 Stormwater Strategy 2009

The Taupo District Council Stormwater Strategy deals with the management of stormwater in urban area catchments. The strategy coordinates stormwater management through a variety of management plans and codes of practice including Reserve Management Plans. Council's objectives are to:

- Minimise the potential effects on the community from stormwater flooding
- Maintain the functioning of overland flow paths
- Reduce the amounts of sediments and contaminants entering the receiving environment
- Provide health and safety risk management for the community around stormwater management systems whilst encouraging the active use of some parts of those systems
- Where Council reserves are part of a stormwater management system, this must be reflected with appropriate policy in reserve management plans.

1.3.2.9 Reserves Strategy

The Taupo District Reserves Strategy is currently under construction. When complete, it will guide Council in the provision and development of reserve lands to meet current and future demand. Reserve management plans will refer to and implement the policies of the Reserves Strategy to ensure that reserve provision meets the needs of the Taupo District and its communities.

1.3.2.10 Reserve Management Plans

This management plan is prepared within a framework of management plans for other reserves in the Taupo District. These include the Tongariro Domain Management Plan, and other omnibus plans such as the Taupo Urban Area and Acacia Bay Neighbourhood Reserves Management Plan. The Taupo Sportsground Reserve Management Plan replaces existing management plans for Centennial Park, Crown Park, Waipahihi Sportsground, Owen Delany Park and Kaimanawa Reserve. It is noted that Hickling Park did not have its own management plan prior to the adoption of this plan.

2 LOCATION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Reserve Location

Of the six reserves included in this Taupo Sportsgrounds Reserve Management Plan, five are located in the Taupo urban area (west of the East Taupo Arterial). Centennial Park is some 7km from Taupo town, to the north-east of the East Taupo Arterial. See Figure 1 for a location map.



Hickling Park and Owen Delany Park are part of a larger "recreation precinct" on the north edge of Taupo, which also includes Spa Park, AC Baths Reserve, and the Taupo Golf Course. A further area is proposed to be added to this precinct, with the development of an area of land between Owen Delany Park and the golf course for sport and recreation purposes. This area is as yet unnamed, and is referred to informally by its legal description of Section 7 SO 397435 (Section 7).

Crown Park, Kaimanawa Reserve and Waipahihi Sportsground are all located within or close to residential neighbourhoods.

2.2 Reserves Index and Classification

Appendix 2 provides details of the legal description and reserve status and classification for each of the six reserves. The Reserves Act 1977 (the Act) requires that reserves be classified according to their principal or primary purpose. Each classification has unique management principles, and these must be given effect through the development of policy in management plans prepared in accordance with the Act.



The majority of the reserves in this management plan have been classified as recreation reserves. The purpose as defined by Section 17 of the Act is to provide "areas for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside".

Part of Hickling Park is classified as local purpose (community buildings) reserve. Local purpose reserves as defined by Section 23 of the Act are "for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve."

2.3 Sportsgrounds in Taupo

2.3.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPORTSGROUND

A sportsground is a reserve that is characterised by large open spaces. It is primarily designed for and used for active sport and recreation, often of a



traditional team nature. The reserve may also provide for a range of community activities and facilities that complement the recreation use of the land. Depending on the scale of this use, these may include carparking adequate to service larger events, public toilets and changing facilities, clubrooms, stands, lighting, and vegetation which provides shelter and adds to the amenity of the reserve. Play areas may be provided in some cases.

Sportsgrounds are following a trend of becoming increasingly multi-use due to the limited availability of open space, the increased costs of maintenance, and the increased range of sporting activities delivered by the community. This allows Council more scope to meet the changing demands of users, and allows for the most efficient use of available open space. However it can result in some conflict around competing demands and over-use.

2.3.2 HISTORY OF SPORTSGROUNDS IN TAUPO

Taupo was founded in 1869 when the Armed Constabulary established a redoubt on what is now Tongariro Domain. The recreation needs of the infant township were satisfied for a while with the creation of two significant reserves, both of which are still largely in existence. The first area was the Tongariro Domain, first reserved for recreation purposes in 1884 following the disestablishment of the Armed Constabulary. The second area was reserved for recreation purposes in 1888, and comprised much of the land that is now part of Owen Delany Park, Spa Park, AC Baths reserve, Hickling Park and the Taupo Golf Course. This reserve contained significant geothermal springs, some of which were developed into the Armed Constabulary Baths, and others were leased for the development of the Spa Thermal Hotel. The leased area was eventually sold and is no longer part of the reserve.

Parts of the Tongariro Domain were developed and used for sports such as cricket, rugby, tennis, bowls and netball for many years. However growth in these sports and other developments on the Domain, have seen most sports progressively moved off and onto other reserves such as Kaimanawa Reserve and Owen Delany Park. This has partly shaped the development of Taupo's sportsgrounds, as they have been created in response to a need to provide for sports that could no longer be accommodated at the Domain. Tennis and bowls are still located on the Domain.

Reserves at Hickling Park, Owen Delany Park, Kaimanawa Reserve, Crown Park and Centennial Park have been derived largely from land holdings of the Crown that have been vested in Council. Waipahihi Sportsground by comparison was provided as a result of subdivision and growth in the area to provide for the reserve requirements of a growing community.

2.3.3 CURRENT SPORTSGROUND PROVISION

The following reserves comprise the Taupo Sportsgrounds Reserve Management Plan

- Owen Delany Park
- Kaimanawa Reserve
- Crown Park
- Hickling Park
- Waipahihi Sportsground
- Centennial Park

These reserves are all located in and around the Taupo urban area, and host a variety of different activities at varying scales. These reserves are included in the plan as they all have some degree of formal sporting activity played on them.

Around 188 hectares of reserve land are provided by these six sportsgrounds. This equates to 7.4ha/1000 residents, based on 25,500 (approx) residents in the Taupo and Acacia Bay area (2006 census data). This sits comfortably above the national average of 1.8ha/1000 residents. However, much of this area (87 hectares) is at Centennial Park which provides primarily for motor racing, horse racing and gliding. The remaining 101 hectares provides around 4ha/1000 residents. These reserves are also used by people from other parts of Taupo District.

Pihanga Reserve is regularly used for informal sporting activity especially during the summer but is not classed as a sportsground. This reserve is included in the Taupo and Acacia Bay Neighbourhood Reserves Management Plan.

Outside the Taupo urban area, areas for active outdoor sport in the Mangakino and Whakamaru area are provided for generally at the Mangakino Rugby Ground. This ground is home to the Mangakino United Rugby Club. McLaren Park and Turangi Sports Park host the majority of sporting activity in Turangi. McLaren Park caters for tennis, community buildings (including the Genesis Energy Turangi Aquatic Centre), and a large area of recreational open space. Turangi Sports Park caters for formal outdoor sports, and is the home of Turangi United Rugby Club.

Tutemohuta Reserve in Waitahanui is a sportsground that is used by the local community and also for some outside games. The land was set aside under Section 439 of the Maori Affairs Act 1953 as Maori Reserve and vested in the Tauhara Middle 14 Maori Reservation Trust. Trustees are appointed by the Maori Land Court, and comprise three nominated by the owners of Tauhara Middle 14, and three nominated by Taupo District Council. The reserve is administered and maintained by Taupo District Council for the purposes of recreation. A management plan was adopted for this reserve in 1992.

2.4 Future Sportsgrounds Provision and Development

2.4.1 RESERVES STRATEGY

Council is in the process of developing a Reserves Strategy to identify existing land resources, identify the need for additional reserve land to meet future community growth, and to support the requirement for reserves contributions arising from development.



2.4.2 POPULATION TRENDS

Volume Three of Taupo District 2050 is the Base Case Report. This was developed in order to bring together existing data and information relevant to the development of the growth options for Taupo 2050. The Base Case Report identifies the following key trends with regard to Taupo's demographics:

- An ageing population
- The unknown dimension of inward and outward migration
- A large and rapidly growing Maori population (relative to the rest of the District's population)
- Declining household size

The Base Case Report predicts that the population of the District is to increase by between 5200 and 7500 people by 2026. Most future growth will be focused on the

northern growth area around Taupo Town. During this same period, the composition of the population is expected to change as the population ages. The number of people in the 65+ age bracket is expected to increase significantly during this time period. Combining the medium growth projections (Projection 3 of 5200) from the Base Case Report with the expected age profile for 2026 gives the population figures in the following table.

GROWTH PROJECTIONS FOR TAUPO DISTRICT

Age Grp	0 - 14		15-39		40-65		65+		Tot
Year	People	Percent of total	People	Percent of total	People	Percent of total	People	Percent of total	Population
2006	7,780	24	10,698	33	10,049	31	3,890	12	32,418
2026	6,771	18	9,781	26	12,038	32	9,028	24	37,618

From this table it can be seen that the number of people in the 0 to 14 and 15 to 39 age groups are expected to fall slightly over time. The bulk of the increase in population is likely to occur in the 65+ age bracket. As most use of sports fields is by children and young adults, this indicates that there is unlikely to be a huge increase in demand for increased area for sports fields in the next 15 to 20 years. What is likely to be needed in the future are indoor sporting surfaces and flexible multi-use spaces that can accommodate a range of activities, tournaments and events. There is also likely to be a need for decentralised facilities in outlying communities as the cost of transport increases.

2.4.3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

TD 2050 identifies that the majority of growth in the Taupo District (around 80% or 5440 residential lots) will be accommodated in the northern growth area around Taupo Township. Short term (stage 1) growth areas are identified at Kinloch, Acacia Bay and East Urban Lands alongside the East Taupo Arterial (Tauhara Ridge). Future areas for growth (stage 2) include the Mapara Valley, Waitahanui and land between Acacia Bay and Taupo.

Future residential growth in these areas will place increased demands on existing sportsgrounds, and may require the development of new sportsgrounds to provide facilities for these communities. In some cases these sportsgrounds are already planned e.g. Murray Black Domain in the Tauhara Ridge development. In other cases the need will be assessed at the time of planning.

The TD2050 growth predictions are reviewed every few years, and are likely to change in response to changing economic drivers. However, growth is still occurring, even if at a slower rate, and provision must still be made for future recreation and sporting needs.

2.4.4 MONITORING AND REVIEW

In exercising its functions as the administering body of a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, Council is required to comply with this management plan and any approved amendments of it.

Council is required by the Act to keep the management plan under continuous review. The intention is that the plan be adapted to changing circumstances or increased knowledge. It is considered that management plans should be reviewed at a minimum of 10 year intervals.

2.5 Reserve Descriptions

2.5.1 HICKLING PARK



2.5.1.1 History

Hickling Park is held in three separate titles, all of which have been acquired from the Crown at various times. All three titles were originally part of a large area set aside by the Crown for recreation purposes as Taupo Domain (Section 4 in 1888 and Section 20 in 1951). The largest area (4.17 hectares at the A C Baths end of Hickling Park containing the hockey turf and community clubrooms buildings) was purchased from the Crown in 1964 on a 20 year deferred payment licence for £6180. The land was initially used mainly for cricket in the summer and field hockey in the winter. The community clubrooms area located on the northern side of this land was established from 1989-1996 when clubrooms buildings were relocated from the Tongariro Domain. The buildings have come from a variety of sources including the Aratiatia power station, the old Broadlands Hall, and the old post and telegraph line depot originally located on the Tauhara Road side of Hickling Park. In 1991 the carpark for the clubroom buildings was sealed, and in 2007 the carpark for the hockey turf was sealed.

The western end of the Park (now containing the skatepark and rugby league fields) was also originally part of the Taupo Domain. In 1960 the Crown took two areas out of the Domain for public works purposes. The corner of Spa and Tauhara Roads was set apart as a main highway depot intended to service the development of roading projects in the area. An area further up Tauhara Road was set apart for a post and telegraph line depot. This area was sold to a private developer in 1994. In 1996 Council purchased both areas of land for the purpose of providing land for recreation. The land was developed into playing fields, and is currently used for rugby league. The skatepark was developed in 2000 on the corner of Spa and Tauhara Roads.

In 2003 an artificial hockey turf with associated pavilion and parking area was built on the Corner of AC Baths Avenue and Tauhara Road. The turf and parking area are owned by Council. The turf is leased to the Great Lake Hockey Club who is responsible for its management and maintenance.

In 2006 the reserve was renamed 'Hickling Park' (previously known as AC Reserve) in recognition of Taupo District Council's long serving former Parks and Reserves Manager, Barry Hickling.



2.5.1.2 Reserve Description

Located in the triangle formed by AC Baths Avenue, Spa Road and Tauhara Road, Hickling Park is at the western end of the recreation hub that includes Taupo Events Centre, AC Baths, Spa Park, Taupo Golf Course and Owen Delany Park. Hickling Park is currently home to rugby league and hockey, and contains the Taupo skatepark, and clubrooms for a range of local groups and clubs. The Park is conveniently located on the outskirts of Taupo's residential area, yet is only minutes from the centre of town.

Hickling Park is constructed on two levels. The higher level at the eastern end of the reserve contains the hockey turf, community clubrooms, two parking areas and one sports field. The reserve then steps down several metres towards the west to a lower level containing a second sportsfield, skate park and third parking area. Additional parking is provided along the edge of the reserve for most of the length of Tauhara Road. The reserve is elevated and slopes quite steeply in places to the north towards Spa Road.

Vegetation cover on the reserve is predominantly grass, with some ornamental and shelter trees planted around the perimeter. There are a number of significant specimen trees on the reserve including *Tilia cordata* and *Tilia platyphyllos* near the skate park.

2.5.1.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

2.5.2 OWEN DELANY PARK



2.5.2.1 History

The development of Owen Delany Park was initially driven by the Taupo Rugby Sub Union's desire to establish a permanent home for rugby in the Taupo District. The search for a site began in the late 1960s when it became apparent that the Borough Council was considering terminating the sub union's lease of part of the Tongariro Domain. The rapidly increasing population of the district at that time also meant that additional sportsfields would be needed. Various options were investigated, but it was not until 1977 that an area of land on the Spa/Aerodrome loop road was identified and

investigated. The land was on the boundary of the Borough and the County, and required support from both Councils, and the Crown who owned part of the land. Part of the land was already reserve – part of the Section 4 land that had been reserved in 1888. The remainder was farmland acquired from the Department of Lands and Survey.

In January 1982 a report on the proposed financing of the project was prepared with the aim of having the sportsfields in use by 1984. Finance was raised through the Local Authorities Loans Board, and a loan from the New Zealand Rugby Football Union. The NZRFU loan was made on the condition that the subunion be granted a long term loan over the grounds. A further source of funding came in the form of forestry plantations planted around the edge of the park on areas that were unsuitable for sporting use. The intention at the time was that the sub union would provide the trees, labour and initial maintenance, and that the eventual return would come to Council as the sub union's financial contribution to the development.

Park development began in 1982, and the sportsfields were completed in 1983. The park was named Owen Delany Park in recognition of Owen Delany, who was the driving force behind it. The grounds were officially opened for rugby in 1985, and the Tongariro Grandstand completed the following year. Some of the funding for the grandstand came from the Ohaaki Power Project Development Grant. The archery field was developed in 1985, and netball was established the following year. In 1987, six artificial cricket wickets were installed. The velodrome was constructed in 1991, and floodlighting installed on the stadium ground the following year. The grandstand was further improved and extended between 1996 and 2000 with committee rooms, open air grandstand seating and upstairs conference rooms.

A management plan was approved for Owen Delany Park in 2005.



2.5.2.2 Reserve Description

The park is comprised of a series of plateaus edged by steep sided gullies. The gully that runs along the north edge of the park is a dry gully that takes stormwater from the land on the other side of Centennial Drive. The gully has limited accessibility due to very steep walls, but is used in places for mountain biking, orienteering and walking. The gully along the south west edge of the park is very different in nature. This gully contains the Otumuheke Stream, a hot stream that flows from a series of springs in the head of the gully floor and along the bed of the stream. The hot stream and springs support populations of rare ferns and other plants that only grow in geothermal environments. The Otumuheke Stream and its associated surface geothermal features are listed in the Waikato Regional Plan as significant geothermal features. An arm of this gully extends into the centre of the park, terminating at the end of Delany Drive. There is no geothermal activity in this part of the gully, but it is quite steep and overgrown, and is a barrier to movement in this part of the park.

The park slopes generally from the south east down to the north west. In the northern part of the park an archery range and sportsfields have been developed on four levels.

Archery is located on the lowest level in the north west corner of the park. This area is surrounded on three sides by gullies, and has a narrow entrance from the lower field area. The lower field area contains three rugby fields and two turf wicket blocks. The intermediate level contains a further two rugby fields and a turf wicket block. The upper level is the stadium or No.1 ground, and has a single rugby field and turf wicket block.

The south east end of the park is bordered by Centennial Drive, Delany Drive, and the Otumuheke Stream gully and its tributary arm. The highest level of this part of the park is alongside Centennial Drive and contains netball courts, a children's play area and dog obedience area. A lower level above the Otumuheke Stream contains a velodrome, clubrooms area, gymnasium, irrigation reservoir and a storage area for events and emergency management.

2.5.2.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

2.5.3 KAIMANAWA RESERVE



2.5.3.1 History

The original Armed Constabulary rifle range was located in what is now the centre of town, roughly along the alignment of Horomatangi Street. It was relocated to the very edge of town on what is now Rifle Range Road when Taupo Township was subdivided in the late 1870s. When originally defined by survey in 1909, Kaimanawa Reserve was known as Rifle Range Reserve and included the bottom end of what is now Rifle Range Road (a total of 6.48 hectares). The range was declared legal road in 1930, reducing the area of reserve to a triangle of land. This triangle of land was eventually set apart in 1955 as reserve for recreation purposes to be administered by the Taupo Domain Board.

In 1956 the Taupo Times reported the development of the 'triangular reserve' between Rifle Range Road, Kaimanawa Street, and Roberts Street. The article stated that the surface of the reserve was being graded prior to grassing and would be an additional sports area yet to be built.

In 1962 cricket was first played on the reserve. In the same year the area of land now occupied by the fire station ceased to form part of the reserve, and its designation changed to allow the development of the station. This left the reserve in its current shape and area.

In 1972 the reserve was formally declared as recreation reserve and vested in the Taupo Borough Council. The reserve was formally classified in terms of the Reserves Act in 1984.

A reserve management plan for Kaimanawa Reserve was adopted by Council in 1997, from which few changes were made to the reserve.

The Tokelau Cricket Club was granted a lease for the clubrooms from 1999.

2.5.3.2 Reserve Description

Kaimanawa Reserve is just over 2ha in size, located less than a kilometre from the Taupo town centre between Kaimanawa Street and Rifle Range Road. The Taupo fire station is located adjoining the western corner of the reserve, cutting it off from State Highway 1 and the lake.

The reserve is flat, and very suitable for its primary use as a cricket field. Through the summer months the reserve's wicket block is utilised most Saturdays and Sundays and the practice net facility is used by several local teams throughout the week. There is a pavilion located on the Kaimanawa Road side of the reserve that provides club facilities as well as public toilets. The building is owned by the Taupo District Council.

The open nature of the reserve is a valuable attribute in the urban area. Along side other reserves such as Northcroft and Colonel Roberts, Kaimanawa Reserve provides open vistas between the Taupo lakefront area and nearby residential and commercial areas. It's central positioning, visibility from Lake Terrace, and proximity to town, makes it an ideal venue for occasional events.

There are several oak trees on the southern end of the reserve, one of which, located closest to Rifle Range Road, is designated under the Taupo District Plan as an Amenity Tree.

2.5.3.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

2.5.4 CROWN PARK



2.5.4.1 History

In 1889 the land was purchased by the Crown as part of the acquisition of the Tauhara Middle land between Lake Taupo and Mt Tauhara. From this point to the 1960s the land appears to have been left in an undeveloped state consisting of self sown pine, blackberry and thermal gullies.

During the 1960s a privately owned block of land on the corner of Invergarry Road and Crown Road was used on an informal basis as a rugby league field. In 1971, the Taupo Borough Council purchased 11.56 hectares of this land. The Ministry of Education took 7.29 hectares of this block for Tauhara College in 1976, leaving 4.27 hectares on the corner of Crown and Invergarry Roads for sportsfields. This part of the reserve was

declared as recreation reserve by notice in the New Zealand Gazette on 3 September 2009.

As a result of a survey in 1975/76 which highlighted that the town was deficient in good recreational facilities, the Taupo Borough Council approached the Crown with regard to developing the 18.73 hectares of Crown reserve as a formal sports ground. The main part of the reserve was developed over a period of two years from 1976 for soccer, softball and rugby league. The land was developed by Council on the understanding that it would eventually be declared recreation reserve and vested in Council. In December 1985 the Crown declared the land to be recreation reserve, and in 1986 Council was appointed to control and management the reserve. This part of the reserve is still vested in the Department of Conservation.

A BMX track was developed on part of the land in 1981, in an area previously used as a pumice pit.

Subdivision of Kiddle Drive in 1988 led to a further 7114 m² being added to the reserve giving frontage to Kiddle Drive. A playground was built on this part of the reserve in 2002. The adjoining Taupo Christian School contributed to the cost of the playground which now appears to be part of the school grounds rather than part of the reserve.

In 1989 an irrigation scheme for the park was approved by Council which has greatly assisted in producing quality sports fields. However, the irrigation has never been fully installed, and only part of the park benefits from the additional water.

In 1991 the Crown Park Reserve Management Plan was adopted. It continued to encourage the development of the Park as a multi-purpose sporting and recreational community facility.

In 2008 Taupo Association Football Club extended their clubroom building to improve changing rooms and public toilets. The Club's lease on the reserve was extended to 2022.



2.5.4.2 Reserve Description

Crown Park is a 24ha reserve located in east Taupo on Crown Road with key entry points from Taharepa and Invergarry Roads. The Park is ideally positioned to create a buffer between the residential and industrial environment, and creates a vast open space in an area of Taupo otherwise lacking in good reserve provision. The topography of the reserve is generally flat as it has been contoured for use as playing fields. Its elevation makes it exposed to cold southerly winds, but results in excellent views to Mt Tauhara and to the Central Plateau mountains.

The northern part of the reserve on Crown Road is separated from the developed playing fields by a conservation gully which has significant geothermal features as identified by the Environment Waikato Regional Plan. A further smaller gully is located in the southern

part of the reserve, in the vicinity of Tauhara College and the Taupo Christian School. Both schools make use of the reserve as it is right on their boundaries.

There is a simulated road layout on the Crown Road side of the park which is used by schools and Council for cycle skills education.

Crown Park is recognised as the home of football in Taupo. The Taupo Association Football Club have a lease over a clubroom site next to the carpark on Taharepa Road, and have senior and junior playing fields over much of the Park. The junior fields at the far eastern end are accompanied by toilets/changing room and carparking facilities. These facilities and fields are used in summer for other sports including touch rugby.

A lease is held by the Taupo BMX Club for a BMX track near the Taharepa Road carpark. This facility has recently been upgraded and fenced. The fenced area includes a Council toilet block which is used primarily by the club but is available for use by park users on request.

2.5.4.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

2.5.5 CENTENNIAL PARK



2.5.5.1 History

The recorded history of this reserve starts in the 1920s with its use as an airstrip. On 11 November 1929, a Gypsy Moth ZK AAO piloted by Mr Ian Horton made the first delivery by air of the New Zealand Herald newspaper. Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith landed his aircraft the "Southern Cross" at the airstrip on 27 January 1934.

During WWII, the Public Works Department developed the "Tauhara Aerodrome" into 3 grass runways which were used for RNZAF training. Following the close of the war, light aircraft used the runways for many years. The potential of the site for larger craft was limited due to the proximity of low hills and Mount Tauhara. An alternative site for an airport was sought. The current airport at Wharewaka was eventually opened in 1965.

There was still interest in the Tauhara or "Old" Aerodrome for use for light aircraft and gliding as it was still registered as an airfield, had a hangar and control tower, and had no passenger aircraft conflict. In 1967 the Taupo Borough Council agreed to acquire the old aerodrome from the Crown for recreation reserve. It was named Centennial Park in recognition of the 1869-1969 centenary of the establishment of the Armed Constabulary. The Taupo County Council renamed Aerodrome Road to Centennial Drive following construction of a new section of road at the boundary of Borough and County.

In 1967 the Borough prepared a plan for development of the old aerodrome including gliding, horse racing, and motor racing. Within the horse racing circuit there were 14 football fields, overlain with polo and cricket. To some extent, the 1967 plan became the basis for the future development of the park, although not all of the proposed developments eventuated.

In 1970 the Taupo Gliding Club, Taupo Racing Club and Taupo Car Club showed substantial interest in promoting and basing their activities at Centennial Park. All three activities require large areas of land and open space, and can produce adverse effects such as noise, dust and smell, making them difficult to cater for in an urban setting. Areas were set aside on Centennial Park for these three clubs, and also the Taupo Gun Club. However, the Gun Club decided to re-establish elsewhere due to the potential hazard of stray bullets falling into the newly developed farmland beyond the edge of the reserve. This left the three interests of gliding, horse racing and motor racing as the main activities to be provided for at Centennial Park. Development has proceeded accordingly.

In 1995 a further 19 hectares of land on the eastern boundary of the original reserve was purchased from the Crown. It was added into the reserve in 1997 and plans drawn up for its allocation between the three reserve occupants. More ambitious plans for development of an international motor racing circuit saw further land purchased in 2002. Part of this land was added to the reserve in 2005. The remainder is held by Council as part of its commercial portfolio and leased to MIT Developments Limited. Resource consent for an extension to the motor racing track was granted in 2003, and in January 2007 the track hosted the first of three A1GP events.



2.5.5.2 Reserve Description

Centennial Park is located on the corner of Broadlands Road and Centennial Drive to the north east of Taupo. The reserve is generally flat, but drops away a little towards the north east. The reserve is dominated by the facilities developed to support the activities of the three lessees i.e. the airstrip, horse racing track and motor racing circuit. A further area of Council owned land at the north east end of the reserve has been leased and developed with a grandstand, parking area and commercial buildings to support motor racing. This is not part of the reserve, but enhances the use of the reserve for motor racing. The motor racing track gets regular use for road cycling training with the permission of the lessee.

The reserve has very little vegetation other than some shade and amenity trees planted on the race course carpark, and between the race course and the motor racing circuit. The land is quite elevated and exposed to wind from all quarters. It has extensive views through to Mount Tauhara.

2.5.5.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

2.5.6 WAIPAHIHI SPORTSGROUND



2.5.6.1 History

The Waipahihi Sportsground was once part of the land held as a Crown farm block under the control of the Department of Lands and Survey. In the mid-1970s the Housing Corporation began subdividing the surrounding land for residential purposes. Development was staged, and various portions of land were acquired by Council as reserve contributions from subdivision throughout the subdivision process. Council acquired most of the reserve area between 1978 and 1981.

Development of the reserve land began in 1978 with the contouring of topsoil and seeding down of the land. The development of the reserve was staged as the land was transferred over from the Housing Corporation and as demand for use increased.

In 1979 most of the reserve was gazetted as recreation reserve and vested in the Taupo Borough Council. The remainder of the land was acquired as a result of the subdivision of the surrounding residential land.

Construction of the Waipahihi Community Hall began in August 1986. Funds for the hall development were obtained from a portion of the Ohaaki Power Project development grant. The construction of the carpark and landscaping of the area was completed after the hall was built.

A reserve management plan was adopted for the Waipahihi Sportsground in 1989, and few changes were made to the reserve.

2.5.6.2 Reserve Description

The Waipahihi Sportsground is around 6.5 hectares, and is located in the southern Taupo urban area. The main access to the reserve is from Richmond Avenue, but the reserve also has small frontages to Grace Crescent, Clarke Grove and State Highway 1.

The Waipahihi Community Hall is located on the reserve, and is leased to the Taupo Youth Arts Trust for youth arts activities. The location of the Hall in a prominent position close to Richmond Avenue makes it visible but also has the effect of isolating the main sporting area of the reserve. The large open space behind the hall is not visible from Richmond Avenue, and it is considered that this reduces its use and effectiveness for the local community.

The Lakeland Bowling and Sports Club has occupied the Waipahihi Sportsground reserve since the early 1990s. The Club hold a lease on part of the reserve for an area sufficient for three bowling greens, although only one green is currently in use. A second artificial green has fallen into disrepair, and the third green was never constructed. There is a large undeveloped area behind the two greens that is part of the lease area but currently surplus to requirement. This area has recently been developed as a community garden by the Taupo Community Gardens Trust. There is ample carparking at the front of the reserve that services all users.

The open space to the rear of the Hall has sufficient area for two playing fields. This area affords views to the mountains to the south, and has a strong sense of being framed with the bank on its eastern side, and residential properties to the west. The playing field is rarely used for organised sports as originally intended, as it is currently surplus to demand and would require improvements to facilities and the playing surface to bring it up to a suitable standard for regular play. A playground is located behind the hall, and there is a toilet block located nearby.

The reserve has two main character areas. The first is the main sportsground area including the hall, parking and bowling greens on Richmond Avenue. The other part of the reserve is a narrow strip of land that provides a buffer between residential properties and the adjacent gully to the south. Access points on to neighbouring residential street provide pedestrian and cycle access to the reserve and gully, and are attractive green spaces that break up the urban form.

Waipahihi Sportsground is bounded by the Tauhara Ridge residential development. This land is owned by Taupo District Council, and future commercial, residential, and recreational land use has been the subject of an intensive planning process. The future plans make provision for a new road to be developed along the eastern edge of the Waipahihi Sportsground that will improve its visibility and potential for use. The plans also include a new sportsground quite close to Waipahihi Sportsground that may be used together with Waipahihi or independently depending on future demand.

2.5.6.3 Leases

See Appendix 3 for a summary of lease details.

Figure 1





3 KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

3.1 Landscape

3.1.1 GEOTHERMAL FEATURES

Both Crown Park and Owen Delany Park have geothermal areas that have been identified by Environment Waikato as Significant Geothermal Features (see maps in Part 5). The geothermal areas are located in gullies in both cases.

In Crown Park, the geothermal activity is characterized by steam and hot ground, and the ground shows evidence of geothermal alteration. A vent in this area is used for cooking.

A deep gully along the south west boundary of Owen Delany Park contains several hot springs that flow into the Otumuheke Stream. This area is extremely dangerous due to near boiling water, and contains geothermal plant associations that are rare and vulnerable to damage.



3.1.2 VEGETATION

Vegetation on the Taupo sportsgrounds is dominated by turf playing surfaces and exotic trees. A variety of trees are dotted around the edge of the grass to provide shade, shelter and attractive surroundings. This is more evident on some reserves than others. Owen Delany Park for instance is well provided with trees that add significantly to the attractiveness of the venue. Woodlots have been planted to provide income for the park to off-set past expenditure.

Gullies contain a mixture of indigenous and exotic species including weed species. They are also in some cases home to rare and vulnerable geothermal plant associations including ferns, algae and prostrate kanuka.



3.1.3 SOILS

Soils on the Taupo sportsgrounds are dominated by Taupo pumice, which is very free-draining but easily damaged by heavy machinery. In most cases, the earthworks required to level the sports fields have resulted in modification of original ground conditions. Topsoil is of variable depth and quality. Geothermal activity on Crown Park creates hot ground conditions and gas which has an adverse effect on grass growth, especially in summer.

Pumice soils contain large voids making them free draining but inclined to dry out in summer. The subsoil layers have poor fertility, which combined with poor water holding encourages surface rooting. The surface layers of pumice soils can be vulnerable to crushing damage which reduces void size and increases surface run-off. Therefore, although sportsfields built on pumice are rarely closed due to wet conditions, during

heavy rainfall they can be inclined to sheet off a large quantity of water that does not immediately soak into the surface layers.

3.1.4 CLIMATE

Taupo has a temperate climate with cool nights and cold winters. Frosts are common during winter, and can occur at any time of the year.

Rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, although winter and spring are generally wetter. Located in the middle of the North Island, frontal rain often does not reach Taupo as it tends to fall in the surrounding hills and ranges before arriving. The lake also has a drying effect on the weather, with less rain occurring close to the edge of the lake than in the surrounding hills due to thermal air currents.



Low winter sun combined with tall evergreen trees on the north side of sportsfields can also produce growth limiting conditions. The sportsfields at Owen Delany Park are surrounded by pine trees that provide good shelter, but reduce sun exposure creating cold damp conditions that limits grass and promotes moss growth.

Cold winters and dry summers combined with free draining, infertile soils produce challenging conditions for grass establishment and growth. The grass growing season is short, and is often limited to spring and autumn. Root depth is often shallow, and turf burns off quickly in summer leaving gaps that can be populated by annual grasses and weeds in autumn. This can lead to poor turf cover that wears badly and fails quickly if not correctly managed.

3.2 Culture of sportsground use

Competitive sport is part of the cultural glue that binds the fabric of our society. Sport is the closest that many of us come to warfare, where we can defend our turf against the enemy invaders. For this reason, some sports clubs and grounds are closely tied to physical location, and the "home and away" style of draw. Other sports have tended to become more centralised with all games being played in one location. This is often influenced by the grounds that are available, and the number of teams or clubs taking part. The culture around particular sports therefore influences the demands made upon Council for grounds and facilities.



Another cultural consideration is the use of land in a way that respects the connection that tangata whenua have with that land, any cultural sites located upon it and tikanga maori. For instance, the use of bio-solids for fertiliser may be an unacceptable practice on sports turf.

There is a geothermal vent at Crown Park that is used for cooking food. This creates issues from time to time with refuse left around the vent and damage to the geothermal area from use.

3.3 Impacts of recreation and use

The use of reserves can result in negative impacts on the reserve environment and on other users.



3.3.1 ALLOCATION OF GROUNDS

3.3.1.1 Overuse

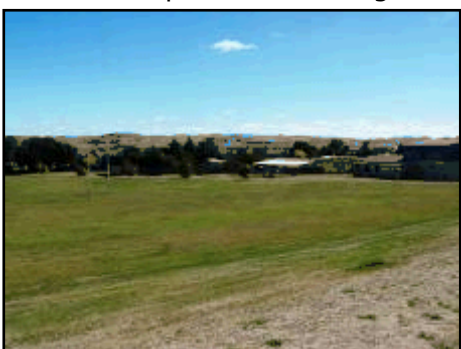
Sports fields that are used for both summer and winter sports require careful management to prevent degradation of turf due to overuse. The fields at Owen Delany Park are used for rugby in winter, and cricket and athletics in summer. Each playing season is six months in length, leaving very little time for effective renovation between seasons. This

ultimately has a detrimental effect on the turf composition of the grass sward as undersown species have little time to establish before being subject to play.

Crown Park and Hickling Park are primarily winter grounds, being used for football and rugby league respectively. Kaimanawa Reserve is conversely a summer ground as it is only used for cricket. Touch rugby and other summer sports such as softball and five-a-side football place additional stress on fields that are already in use for winter sports. Touch rugby has been played on both Crown Park and Hickling Park.

The ideal scenario is for playing surfaces to be used for either winter or summer sport, not both, so that damage can be repaired before the next season. However, this is a relative luxury, and would require a large area of sports turf to be provided to accommodate all sports. Fields that have irrigation to allow grass growth in summer cope much better with increased use, as evidenced at Owen Delany Park, Hickling Park and parts of Crown Park.

Another alternative is to install artificial playing surfaces. This has become the norm for netball, hockey, tennis and bowls with artificial turf or hard courts installed all around the country, including Taupo. It is becoming more common for other sports such as football and rugby, especially in areas that experience many field closures due to high rainfall and poor soil drainage.



3.3.1.2 Underuse

Most sports clubs and codes prefer to have all games played in the one venue at the same time. For instance, Owen Delany Park is the home ground for Taupo rugby teams, and hosts all junior and senior games. As sports grow, their space requirements increase and they tend towards use of larger grounds. This means that grounds with one or two fields are less popular unless they have additional

improvements such as irrigation, training lights and changing rooms that allow them to be used more frequently. Underuse can also result from scheduling of games, with most games traditionally being played on a Saturday morning, and fields getting little use at other times.

Waipahihi Sportsground has sufficient space for two sports fields, but is not used on a regular basis. This is due in part to lack of demand, but also to poor turf, hard ground,

and no irrigation, changing rooms or lights. Hickling Park has the same playing area, but is more useable as it grows good grass due to irrigation. Waipahihi is underutilised as a sportsground, but has potential for use as a community park.

It is often the presence of irrigation that allows sports turf to be used to its full capacity. Where irrigation is not available, the durability of turf is reduced and its playing season shortened. This tends to lead to underuse as other fields are used in preference.

Another potential cause of underuse of fields and facilities is "capture" of grounds by a specific user. An example is at Owen Delany Park where a long term lease of the fields was granted to the Taupo Rugby Subunion in 1985. The lease is for a term of 33 years with a right of renewal for a further 33 years. The lease gives the Subunion virtually complete control over the use of the grounds from the first Saturday in April to the first Saturday in October during each year of the term. Council has the ability to schedule use of the grounds on two days during the rugby season. The lease was granted as a condition of loan funding by the NZRFU for the development of the Park. Rugby in Taupo is arguably not as strong now as it was when the lease was granted, but because of the lease, it is difficult to use the grounds in winter for any other sport. The grounds are currently sub-let to King Country Rugby Football Union, which has increased the use of the grounds. The sub-lease expires in 2011.

Similarly, cricket has a 15 year (5x5x5) lease over the fields at Owen Delany Park for the summer months (October to March). This lease also expires in October 2011.

3.3.1.3 Conflicts

Sportsgrounds are a finite resource. There is a limit to the amount of land that can be tied up in sports fields. Maintenance costs of sports turf is high compared with other grass, so generally field numbers are kept to the minimum required to meet demand. This can produce conflict between users as turf is often used for more than one sport.

The main conflict occurs between users at the start and finish of each season. This is particularly evident at Owen Delany Park where there are three main users of the fields – rugby, cricket and athletics. Although rugby and cricket have a lease of the fields that entitles them to use within a defined season, the rugby season in particular has been extended so that it now starts in March when the grounds are still in use for cricket and athletics. This means that pre-season rugby games and training must be catered for elsewhere. The situation is exacerbated by the need to renovate the playing surface at the end of each season, which effectively takes six weeks out of the end of each playing season.

3.3.2 TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

Taupo has positioned itself as the Events Capital of New Zealand. The running of outdoor events often requires reserve land, particularly for sporting events and tournaments. This sometimes conflicts with regular local sporting use of these reserves. Events can also cause damage to sporting surfaces with wear and tear from foot traffic, marquees, heavy vehicles, animals, cycle traffic etc. Care must therefore be taken with the siting and timing of events on sports surfaces.



Tournaments and events can have spin-offs for local sporting users where facilities are upgraded to accommodate major events. For instance, the construction of a motor racing circuit on Centennial Park for the A1GP has benefited local motor sports and road

cyclists. Events can also result in costs for local ratepayers if Council absorbs some of the costs of development or repair of facilities needed to support events. Council may choose to do this to support the event industry and the revenue generated for the Taupo economy.



3.3.3 PRIVATE BUILDINGS ON RESERVES

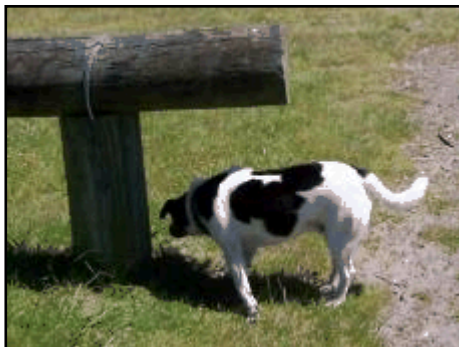
Sportsgrounds are often occupied by clubrooms that are used in association with the sporting facilities on the reserve. These are usually owned by sports clubs and incorporated societies, and occupy the reserve by virtue of a lease.

In some cases, clubs lease parts of the reserve for clubrooms that are not related to any outdoor use of the reserve. There are a number of such buildings on

these reserves (see Appendix 3). In most cases these are located on local purpose reserve i.e. Hickling Park.

Use of reserves for clubrooms and other private buildings (e.g. storage containers, sheds, garages) is of great value to clubs who would otherwise have to acquire land or rent premises at market rentals. However, it effectively privatises parts of the reserve and makes it unavailable for use by the general public who are not associated with those clubs.

Management and maintenance of buildings and other facilities located on sportsgrounds can be quite costly. They can place a burden on clubs that have limited resources in terms of finances and volunteer time and skills. They are often subject to damage and vandalism which can consume resources that could otherwise have been used on club equipment and activities. However, it is important that buildings located in public areas are kept in good condition and repair. Unattractive and poorly kept buildings give the impression that an area is not cared for and that damage and vandalism is tolerated. This can lead to areas being further vandalized and dominated by antisocial behaviour to the point that they are perceived as, or actually become unsafe.



3.3.4 DOGS ON SPORTSFIELDS

Sportsgrounds are often seen as great areas to exercise dogs as there is plenty of space, and there are often few other people around during the week. However, many sports involve contact with the ground, and there is a high risk of contamination if dog owners do not pick up after their dogs. It is an offense under the Dog Control Bylaw to leave dog droppings in a public place. With some owners not picking up after their dogs, and the risk of

contamination even if droppings are collected, dogs are prohibited from sports fields and playgrounds. Dogs are also prohibited from playgrounds due to the risk (perceived or otherwise) of danger to children.

Dogs are currently prohibited from Crown Park, Centennial Park, Waipahihi Sportsground, Hickling Park, and parts of Owen Delany Park (excluding the dog obedience area on Centennial Drive). Dogs on Kaimanawa Reserve must be on a leash.

There is potential to allow dogs on parts of the reserves where there is little risk of contamination of playing surfaces.

3.3.5 CAMPING

Regular use of reserves for camping can create issues around disposal of waste, privatisation of areas of reserve, nuisance behaviour (usually associated with alcohol), and conflict with other recreational and sporting activities. It also requires provision of facilities to support such use i.e. toilets, showers, kitchen facilities, laundry, internal roads etc. In most cases, camping on sportsgrounds is not necessary or desirable.

There are some situations where camping is required to support the use of a reserve for an event. Provided such temporary use is supported with sufficient facilities, and camping is managed adequately to reduce adverse effects, it can enhance the use of reserves for such events. For instance, camping on parts of Owen Delany Park is allowed in association with Dog Obedience and Kennel Club events.

3.4 Adverse effects of use and development

Sportsgrounds provide many benefits including of improved outlook and amenity, large areas of open space and habitat, and improved access to recreational opportunities. The use of sportsgrounds can however produce adverse effects on the environment and on surrounding areas.

3.4.1 NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES

The development and use of reserves as sportsgrounds has the potential to have some adverse effects on neighbouring properties. When in use, sportsgrounds generate noise from spectators and P.A systems. They also require higher maintenance than general reserves, with associated machinery noise, vibration and chemical use. Sportsgrounds that contain clubrooms and night lighting also have the potential to cause noise and light disturbance late at night than grounds that are only used during daylight hours. For these reasons, sportsgrounds are best located away from residential areas where possible. Owen Delany Park and Centennial Park are located in rural environments, and the majority of Hickling Park is adjacent to an industrial area.



Where sportsgrounds are located in residential neighbourhoods, the effects of sporting and recreational use should be managed to minimise nuisance to neighbouring properties where possible. However, care must be taken to avoid reverse sensitivity.

3.4.2 TRANSPORT NETWORKS

Most sportsgrounds are used intensively for short periods e.g. Saturday mornings is the traditional time for junior netball and rugby. This can impact on traffic networks when large amounts of traffic are entering and exiting a park over a short duration. The situation is exacerbated with major events and games that attract large numbers of spectators. These can have a significant impact on traffic networks, although generally for a short period.

3.4.3 THE ENVIRONMENT

If well managed, sportsgrounds should have little adverse effect on the environment. However, there is the potential for large areas of flat, fairly compacted ground to sheet off large quantities of stormwater during heavy rainfall events. In addition to the effects

of large quantities of water, stormwater may be contaminated if chemicals have been recently applied. Conversely, during dry periods, large quantities of water are needed to keep grass actively growing. This can place additional strain on water supplies if they are limited by low lake levels.

Maintenance of sportsgrounds can be resource intensive, with high reliance on fossil fuel powered machinery and inorganic fertilizers. Management practices should seek to maximize efficiency of resource use where possible.



3.5 Provision of grounds and facilities by Council

Council provides a number of grounds and associated facilities to support sport and recreation in Taupo. However, resources are limited, and Council does not have the ability, nor should Council be expected to, provide everything that is required. Where facilities are not provided by Council, they can be provided by sporting organisations where this is consistent with this management plan.

3.5.1 GAPS IN PROVISION

As a result of consultation with user groups, the following gaps in provision of sporting facilities have been identified.

- The shared use of fields by rugby and cricket means that there is no place on Owen Delany Park that rugby can use year round for pre-season games and training.
- The current provision of 10 netball courts is expected to be sufficient for the short to medium term, but further courts may be needed in the medium to long term (5 to 10 years).
- Requirements of the existing management plan for the Tongariro Domain mean that the tennis courts will need to be shifted to a new location.
- Of the six sportsgrounds reserves, only two (Crown Park and Owen Delany Park) have capacity for three or more sportsfields. This limits the options of providing for sports codes that require three fields or more in one location, and does not allow for growth of smaller codes e.g. touch rugby and rugby league.
- Hickling Park and Waipahihi Sportsground have toilets but no changing facilities. This limits their use for senior matches unless alternative facilities are used e.g. hockey changing rooms on Hickling Park.
- The skate park at Hickling Park does not cater well for street skating.
- There is a lack of facilities that can be used by small clubs that do not have their own clubrooms i.e. shared meeting space and storage areas.



3.5.2 IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

Users have also identified the need for improvements to facilities on sportsgrounds.

- The netball courts require additional lighting, seating, and shelter for spectators as it is very exposed and cold in winter. Additional space in the pavilion is needed for umpires.
- Parking on Owen Delany Park requires improvement to get the best use of available

space.

- The area used by Dog Obedience is not large enough and requires extension to enable provision of another ring (40 by 30m).
- The Dog Obedience Clubrooms are old and run down and require significant capital investment.
- The Kennel Club building is underutilised, and the associated long drop toilets are substandard.
- The velodrome requires resurfacing, and the Cycling Club wants to add an officials stand, pits area, warm up lane and toilets.
- The toilet at the skate park is unsanitary and requires improvements.
- Improvements to turf condition are needed at Crown Park to allow the turf to reach its full capacity for use.
- Traffic calming and additional parking on AC Baths Avenue are desirable to reduce traffic speeds, improve safety and allow greater parking capacity for events.
- The No.1 rugby field at Owen Delany Park is shared by cricket, and has a clay wicket block in the centre. This makes it very difficult to provide and maintain a good playing surface for either sport.
- The cricket outfield at Kaimanawa Reserve is a little short on the Rifle Range Road boundary. The block needs to be shifted slightly to the north to alleviate this.
- Kaimanawa Reserve is expected to get more use for cricket, and requires improvements to the pavilion, irrigation, practice nets and landscaping to support the increased use.

3.5.3 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Where grounds and facilities are provided by Council, maintenance standards have a significant impact on how those grounds and facilities are used, and the resources needed to continue to provide them. Sportsgrounds are used by many visiting teams and players, and poor maintenance reflects badly on Taupo as a host community for sporting events. Grounds and facilities must be fit for their purpose, but also be affordable for users and ratepayers. In some cases, users may be expected to undertake some of the maintenance obligations.



Maintenance standards currently differ across Council sportsgrounds. This can result in perceived inequities between users, with some users feeling that they receive a great deal less than others in terms of level of service.

Some areas on sportsgrounds are maintained by clubs who lease the land from Council. Maintenance provisions are included in leases, and generally apply when there is exclusive use of an area by a club e.g. clubrooms buildings, the hockey turf or BMX track.

3.6 Safety and security

The design of public spaces must take into account the needs of users, especially the need for personal safety. Sportsgrounds should not contain hazards for users. However, users must take responsibility themselves for personal safety and security of property.

There are inherent risks associated with most sports, particularly those involving contact, speed, and the potential for falls. Injuries are inevitable, and Council can not

take responsibility for the actions of those who undertake an activity where injury or harm is a foreseeable consequence, or in respect of risks willingly accepted.

3.6.1 DAMAGE AND VANDALISM OF PROPERTY

Damage and vandalism is often an issue in public places, particularly when there is uncontrolled access at night, poor lighting and visibility into the reserve, and the reserve is on an informal pedestrian route. The BMX track at Crown Park has been subject to ongoing vandalism as the Park is close to a residential area, is used as a short cut or meeting place, and the BMX track is not visible from the road or the rest of the park. Similarly some of the clubrooms at Hickling Park have been damaged as they are seen as easy targets. Repair of damage and vandalism can be a significant burden for Council and for clubs that have buildings on reserves.



3.6.2 PERSONAL SAFETY

The common law duty of care requires Council to take such care as is reasonable to see that reserve users will be reasonably safe in using reserves for the purposes for which they are permitted to be there. The Occupiers Liability Act 1962 further defines the duty of care owed by an occupier of land to any person legally entitled to be on a reserve. In addition to this, the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 covers the obligations of

Council (and other employers) in respect of reserves as a workplace.

During winter, reserves are often used during the hours of darkness for training, and more frequently for games on weeknights. Hockey for instance is played in the evenings during the week. This night time use of reserves makes the provision of suitable lighting to carparks and building entrances important. The use of vegetation and fences for screening and landscaping must be carefully considered as these can become concealment points.

3.7 Provision for future growth

The rate of growth of Taupo is expected to result in a population increase of between 5200 and 7500 by 2026. Most of this growth is expected to occur in the northern part of the district around Taupo and Acacia Bay. However, it is anticipated that much of this growth will be in the over 40 age groups, and will not therefore significantly increase the demand for active sporting facilities and grounds. There may however be an increase in demand for indoor sports and recreation centres, walking and cycling opportunities and “pay for play” or commercial recreation.

In addition to the sportsgrounds covered in this management plan, there are at least three other areas that will provide for sporting use in the next ten to fifteen years. Stage 10 of the Brentwood subdivision includes an active sportsfield area of around 3.2 hectares that will vest in Council as recreation reserve. This sportsground has provision for two full sized sports fields, a hard court area with a pavilion and a playground. In addition to this, the Tauhara Ridge development provides for a similar area of active sports field to be known as the Murray Black Domain. These reserves will provide for community use or sports training, but are unlikely to be big enough to satisfy the requirements of a single code.

Council has a further 11.7 hectares of land opposite Owen Delany Park (Section 7) that was purchased for recreation purposes. The development of part of this land for sporting use would enable the construction of three contiguous sports fields that would accommodate use by touch rugby, rugby league, softball etc as required. This will not only complement the use of Owen Delany Park and other existing sportsgrounds for local use, events and tournaments, but will ensure that Taupo has sufficient sports fields to provide for population growth for the foreseeable future.

3.8 Provision of land for commercial recreation

Taupo is a busy holiday destination, popular because of the lake, mountains and outdoor activities and events. Local residents and visitors to Taupo enjoy a range of recreational activities, some freely available and others provided by the commercial sector. Commercial recreation adds to Taupo's economy and vitality, and enhances Taupo as a visitor destination.

Opportunities rely on the availability of suitable land as well as finance and demand. Developers will often approach Council for the use of reserve land, as such land is seen to be readily available, in high profile locations, and cheaper than land purchase. However, the use of public reserve land for commercial recreation often excludes non-paying members of the public, may compromise the open space amenity values of such reserves, and may displace or conflict with existing users. Commercial recreation activities also have the potential for adverse effects on neighbouring properties in terms of noise, signage, vehicle traffic, lighting and large buildings. For these reasons, Council often struggles to support applications for the use of sportsgrounds and other reserve land for commercial recreation. There is justification to set such an area aside where it will have a positive impact on existing facilities.



4 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Council has a duty in terms of the Reserves Act to “ensure the use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, of the reserve for the purpose for which it is classified.” Objectives and policies for management of the Taupo sportsgrounds are

intended to address issues identified in Part 3, ensure that these reserves meet the reasonable needs of the community, and promote compliance with the Act.

Council has developed generic objectives and policies in response to the need to manage the sportsgrounds as an integrated whole. Many of the reserves share similar management issues and therefore require a consistent policy approach. Some reserves, however, present specific issues and/or development opportunities which require more detail than the policy section provides. These are addressed in the individual concept and action plans in Part 5.

This part of the plan is best read in tandem with Part 3, which provides more detail on the key management issues and constraints addressed by the objectives and policies below. Council will cost and develop action plans for its objectives, and will incorporate these into its long-term financial strategies. Implementation of proposed developments and improvements will take place in stages, over time, and in accordance with Council’s level of service and funding applications.



4.1 Administration and management

OBJECTIVE

That the use, development, and maintenance of the Taupo Sportsgrounds is consistent with the purpose for which they have been classified, and enhances the enjoyment of the reserves by users.

POLICIES

a) Taupo Sportsgrounds are in general to be used, developed and maintained for sporting purposes and activities that support sport and active recreation.

b) Manage the reserves within the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991 and Council by-laws.

c) Continue to develop and implement relationships, protocols and consultation procedures with other organisations and authorities that have an interest in and around the reserves.

4.2 Cultural Heritage

OBJECTIVE

That cultural and heritage values, archaeological and geological features and sites of historic significance within the Taupo Sportsgrounds are recognised and protected.

POLICIES

- a) Protect and manage features of cultural and heritage significance to ensure their long-term conservation.
- b) Consult with tangata whenua to decide on the appropriate protection, treatment and management of cultural values, sites and areas.
- c) Work in partnership with tangata whenua in decision-making and managing significant maori cultural issues on the reserves.
- d) Ensure that, should any archaeological site, structure or feature be discovered during any reserve development, work ceases immediately, and the Council, tangata whenua and any other appropriate agencies such as the Historic Places Trust are notified as soon as possible.

4.3 Landscape and Natural heritage

OBJECTIVE

- i) That the use and development of the Taupo Sportsgrounds is consistent with their character, reserve amenity and landscape and natural values.
- ii) That vegetation is established and maintained to protect and enhance sporting activities, reserve amenity, and landscape and natural values.



POLICIES

- a) Trees are to be provided and managed in accordance with the objectives and standard operating procedures contained in Taupo District Council's Tree and Vegetation Policy.
- b) Trees are to be planted in non-playing areas around the perimeter of sports fields and other playing surfaces provided they do not reduce the playable area or reduce options for field configurations.
- c) Shrub beds should only be used to provide additional enhancement of high public use areas such as carparks and public buildings.
- d) Species selection for planting within the reserves must take the following factors into consideration:
 - the effects on adjacent properties at the time of planting and in the future
 - the effects on underground and overhead services
 - landscape issues (e.g. scale, spatial, shading and visual amenity)
 - ecological values
 - reserve character
 - cultural heritage values and sites
 - public safety
 - vistas and views
 - the need to retain open space for sporting purposes.
- e) Plant and animal pests are to be managed in accordance with Environment Waikato and Taupo District Council policies.
- f) Indigenous geothermal vegetation in areas defined by Environment Waikato as significant geothermal features will be protected in accordance with the Environment Waikato Regional Plan.

g) Gully areas will be managed so that they function as overland flow paths where appropriate, enhance the indigenous biodiversity of the reserve and enhance recreational opportunities within the reserve.

h) Significant natural features on sportsgrounds will be protected to the extent that the protection is compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve.

i) Any future development of the reserve must maintain and protect its amenity values and natural character, and complement reserve landscape values.



4.4 Provision of Council sportsgrounds and facilities

OBJECTIVE

That Council will provide sufficient, well maintained sportsgrounds and facilities to meet reasonable demand for the foreseeable future.

POLICIES

a) Development of new sports fields will take place in the following locations to provide for future demand or replacement of existing facilities:

- Section 7 SO 397435, Centennial Drive (Owen Delany Park extension)
- Murray Black Domain (Tauhara Ridge)
- Brentwood (Jarden Mile)

b) Development of new artificial sports surfaces (tennis courts, hockey turf and netball courts) may take place where required for example at Hickling Park and Owen Delany Park to provide for future demand or replacement of existing facilities.

c) Existing sports fields at Crown Park, Kaimanawa Reserve, Owen Delany Park and Hickling Park will be managed (within lease constraints) to achieve the most efficient use of land and resources for active sporting and other recreational purposes.

d) Waipahihi Sportsground (including the existing sportsfields) will be renamed to Waipahihi Reserve and maintained as a community park for casual use. This reserve will be included in future versions of the Taupo Urban Area and Acacia Bay Neighbourhood Recreation Reserves Management Plan.

e) Toilets will be provided by Council for use in association with all sportsfields that are used on a regular basis for games or matches.

f) Changing rooms may be provided by Council at venues where visiting senior teams are regularly hosted. Changing rooms can be provided by the sporting organisation making regular use of the fields in conjunction with a lease of the land for clubrooms.

g) Spectator seating (terraced seats or bleachers) will be provided only at premier venues that can regularly expect to attract significant spectator numbers to major sporting events.

h) Security lighting will be provided in parking areas that service sports fields and surfaces that have training lights and are regularly used after dark.

i) Where training lights are required to allow night time use of sports fields and surfaces, these may be installed by user groups provided they have a formal agreement with

Council relating to installation, use, maintenance, and removal of the lights and associated cabling.

j) Playgrounds will continue to be provided at Owen Delany Park, Crown Park, and Waipahihi Sportsground. An additional playground will be provided at Crown Park in a location that better meets the needs of reserve users than the existing playground on Kiddle Drive.

k) Signage will be erected as required to assist with information and wayfinding on reserves.

l) Walkways and cycleways will be developed as required to provide access within reserves where necessary and linkages with other reserves and transportation networks. The location of these must be safe and not in conflict with sporting use.

m) Parking areas will be provided where there is an established demand for parking, and where this does not significantly detract from amenity values and the functioning of the reserve.

n) The location and design of any new building, or any extension or modification to an existing building, must complement the landscape and character of the sportsground and surrounding area.

4.5 Allocation of sports fields

OBJECTIVE

That sufficient sports fields and facilities are available and will be allocated each season to meet demand.

POLICIES

a) Sports fields will be allocated to users on a seasonal basis according to demand, unless allocated in accordance with the terms and conditions of a lease.



b) Fields and facilities may be temporarily unavailable due to renovations, repairs and prior allocations. If this is the case, alternative fields and facilities will be provided.

c) Users will be charged for the use of sports fields and facilities in accordance with Council Policy.

d) Council reserves the right to determine which grounds shall be available for any particular sporting purpose.

e) Tutemohuta Reserve at Waitahanui may be used when required to supplement available sports fields.



4.6 Events and permits

OBJECTIVE

That the use of the Taupo Sportsgrounds for events shall enhance opportunities for local sports and recreation while having minimal adverse impact on grounds and facilities.

POLICIES

- a) Permits may be granted for short term use of a reserve for temporary recreation activities or events, or commercial activities that support recreation e.g. food vendors, where these benefit the public and are compatible with the use of the reserve.
- b) Sports fields will not be used for events that are incompatible with their sporting use such as dog shows, or that will cause significant damage to turf that cannot be fully repaired before being required for sporting use.
- c) Where sports fields are used for events, a bond will be taken from the event organiser to allow the repair of damage to turf and other reserve assets where needed.



4.7 Leases, licences, easements

OBJECTIVE

That leases, licences and easements on the Taupo Sportsgrounds shall enhance sporting and recreational opportunities for the Taupo community.

POLICIES

- a) Leases will only be permitted where exclusive use of part of the reserve is necessary to support a sporting or recreational activity that is complementary to the purpose and function of the reserve, and where the lease is in accordance with the provisions of Sections 54 and 61 of the Reserves Act.
- b) Council will not grant new leases over existing sports fields unless in accordance with Section 54(1)c of the Reserves Act where the lessee is to spend a substantial sum in the preparation and maintenance of the area for sporting purposes.
- c) Fresh leases of existing community clubrooms sites on Hickling Park may be granted provided the expiry date is no later than 30 June 2030.¹
- d) A new lease of the hockey turf and clubrooms site for a further similar term may be granted at the expiry or termination of the current lease.
- e) New leases of clubrooms sites on Owen Delany Park may be granted to the Taupo Netball Centre Inc, Taupo Rugby Football Club Inc, Taupo Canine Obedience Club Inc and Tauhara Gymnastics at the expiry of their current leases.
- f) Use of the cricket fields and associated facilities at Owen Delany Park by Taupo Cricket Incorporated may be granted by way of an agreement for use in terms of Section 53(1)f of the Reserves Act at the expiry of the current lease in 2011.
- g) A lease may be granted in accordance with 54(1)b of the Reserves Act to support the development of an indoor training venue as indicated on the concept plans for Owen Delany Park.
- h) Prior to the expiry of the current term of the Rugby Subunion lease over part of Owen Delany Park in 2017, Council will consider the need to renew the lease in accordance with the terms and conditions of the current lease.

¹ This policy was amended by Council resolution on 23 February 2016. The original policy read "New leases of community clubrooms sites on Hickling Park may be granted until 31 December 2019, after which time their future will be reviewed."

i) A lease may be granted to the Taupo Cycling Club Incorporated to support minor developments at the velodrome.

j) Taupo Cricket Incorporated may be permitted to upgrade and extend the pavilion on Kaimanawa Reserve subject to Council approval of plans, and variation of lease to reflect the alterations to building structure and ownership.

k) Council will review the future of the Waipahihi Community Hall at the expiry or termination of the lease to the Taupo Youth Arts Trust.

l) Licences may be granted for temporary occupation of reserves where exclusive use is not required, for activities that support and enhance sporting and recreational use. Food vendors will only be allowed to operate on sportsgrounds while the grounds are in use, and at the invitation of the sporting code using the grounds.

m) A licence for a community garden may be granted to the Taupo Community Gardens Trust for part of the Waipahihi Reserve following the successful completion of a trial period and subject to the outcome of consultation.

n) Easements for utilities may be granted in accordance with section 48 of the Reserves Act only where there is no feasible alternative route or where the location of the utility on the reserve confers a significant benefit to the reserve and its users.

4.8 Management of adverse effects of activities

OBJECTIVE

That the use and development of the Taupo Sportsgrounds will avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects.

POLICIES

a) All proposed developments on sportsgrounds must be undertaken in accordance with the Taupo District Plan or conditions of resource consents or designations.

b) Where development, maintenance and use of sportsgrounds is a permitted activity, all care must be taken to avoid creating a nuisance (in terms of noise, dust, light spill, visual amenity and traffic) to reserve users, neighbouring properties and transportation networks.

c) All application of chemicals will be undertaken in accordance with Council Policy.



4.9 Safety and security

OBJECTIVE

That the Taupo Sportsgrounds should be a safe and secure environment in which to undertake sporting and recreational activity.

POLICIES

a) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles will be used when designing and maintaining the sportsgrounds to promote safe use of public space and reduce the opportunity for crime.

b) Maintenance standards for sportsgrounds will seek to ensure that facilities are maintained in a good and safe condition.

4.10 Restricted Activities

OBJECTIVE

That the Taupo Sportsgrounds will not be adversely affected by activities that are inconsistent with the use of the reserves for sports and recreation.

POLICIES

a) Users must comply with relevant Council bylaws and the Reserves Act with respect to restricted activities and offences on reserves. Refer to Appendix 5.

b) Dogs are prohibited from playgrounds and all areas within 10 metres of any sports field or artificial sports surface.

c) Horses are prohibited from sportsground reserves unless provided for with a specific bridle trail.

d) Camping on sportsgrounds is not permitted unless it occurs as part of an organised event, is for no more than 2 consecutive nights, and is supported with provision of additional toilet facilities where required. Where permission is granted, care must be taken that playing surfaces and underground services are not compromised by vehicles, tents and pegs. Tents are not to be erected on sports fields.



4.11 Maintenance Standards

OBJECTIVE

That the standard of maintenance of the Taupo Sportsgrounds will reflect their use and significance as visitor venues as well as local community facilities.

POLICIES

a) All sports playing surfaces will be maintained to a suitable standard for the level of play required by the hiring sports organisation and agreed at the time of allocation.

b) Sportsgrounds that regularly host visiting teams and players from outside the Taupo District, or are located in major sporting precincts that regularly receive visitors will be maintained to a higher standard than sportsgrounds used primarily for local play.

c) Council will develop and adopt sustainable and efficient maintenance practices for management of resources such as water, chemicals and fertilisers, energy and fossil fuels.

4.12 Utility Services

OBJECTIVE

That utilities and services such as power, water, wastewater and stormwater shall be provided to the Taupo Sportsgrounds in a manner that enhances the reserve and benefits its users.



POLICIES

a) Where wastewater reticulation is available, buildings with wastewater systems will be required to be connected and existing septic tanks removed.

b) Sportsgrounds may contain stormwater overland flowpaths, often in natural gully systems. Where overland flowpaths occur naturally or are created on reserves, they will be developed and maintained in a way that is compatible with and enhances recreational use of the reserve. Formed walking and cycle paths are to be constructed out of the stormwater flowpath. Any stormwater detention areas and flowpaths must be designed so that they function safely without creating a hazard for reserve users.

c) Stormwater outfalls that flow into the Otumuheke Stream gully from Owen Delany Park and Centennial Drive will be improved to reduce the risk of erosion, siltation and damage to the geothermal stream environment.

4.13 Management of reserve boundaries

OBJECTIVE

That sportsground boundaries will be clearly defined where needed to enhance sporting and recreational use.

POLICIES

a) Fencing of reserve boundaries will be adequate to define the boundary and reduce the risk of trespass from the reserve onto private property.

b) Encroachments onto sportsgrounds from private properties with gardens, fences, sheds and other buildings and structures will not be tolerated.

5 CONCEPT AND ACTION PLANS

In this section of the plan, proposed timeframes correlate with LTP periods as follows:

1 to 3 years	July 2009 to June 2012
4 to 6 years	July 2012 to June 2015
7 to 10 years	July 2015 to June 2019

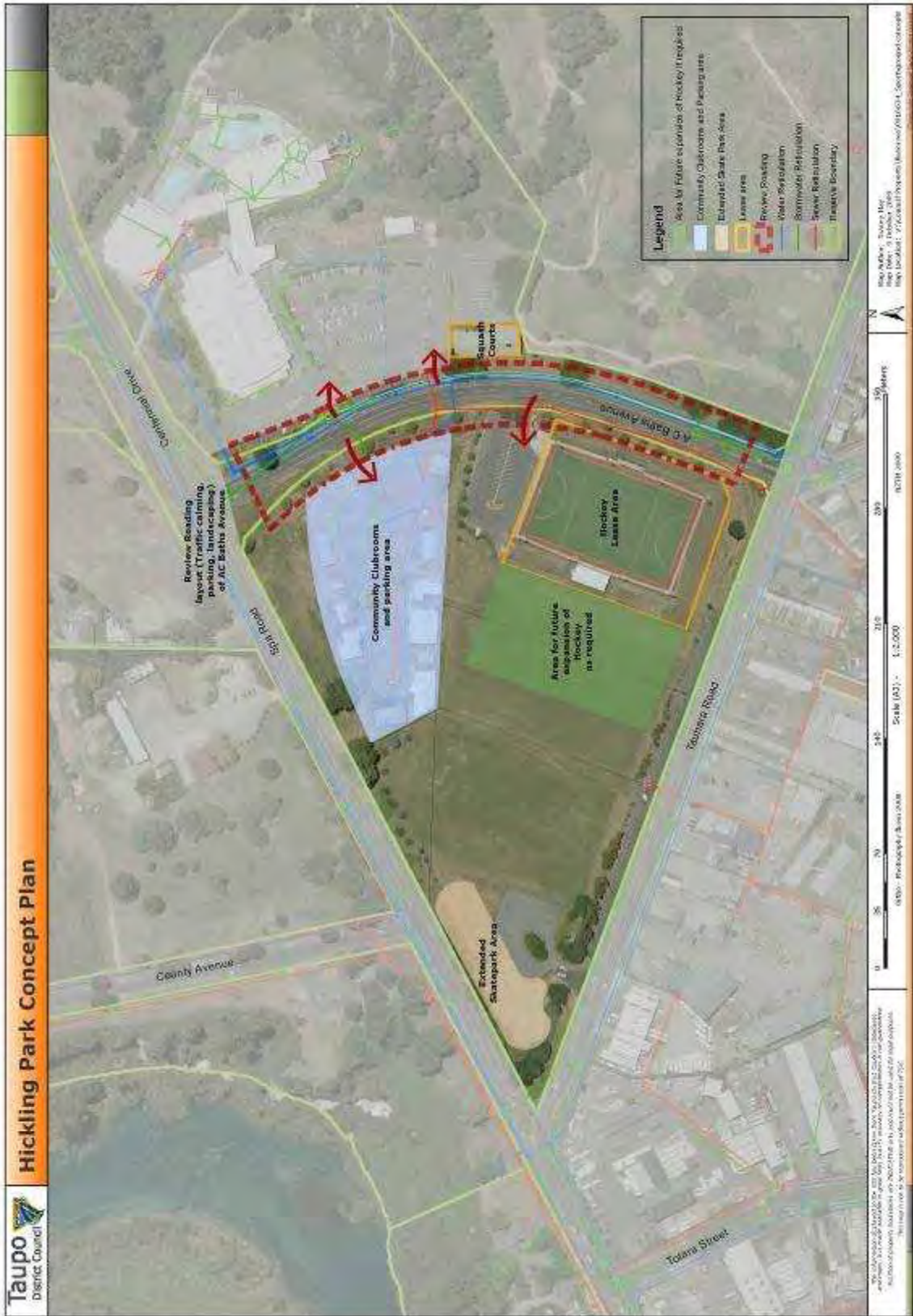
5.1 Hickling Park Future Development Concept Plan

- Continue to provide two fields at Hickling Park for rugby league for as long as they are required, or until needed for hockey expansion.
- Retain the existing hockey turf at Hickling Park along with an additional area behind the pavilion for future long term hockey expansion.
- Retain the community clubrooms area at Hickling Park, and rationalise where possible. Future leases will include stringent terms for building repair and maintenance, sub-letting and assignment. Future lease terms will be permitted to the end of 2019 when the future of the area will be reviewed.
- Support the development of a shared meeting space for clubs and an alternative site for the Sports House.
- Support a small extension to the skate park to increase its diversity.
- Improve AC Baths Avenue and adjacent parking areas to create a safer more attractive environment, provide more parking and reduce vehicle speeds.

5.1.1 ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe
Grant new leases where required for expired community clubrooms lease until December 31 2019.	as required
Investigate use and possible purchase of Lion's Club building to provide shared club meeting space and/or an alternative for the Sports House.	1 to 3 years
Improvements to roading, parking and landscaping along AC Baths Avenue and adjacent parking areas.	1 to 3 years
Investigate options for improvements to toilets and changing facilities to support use of the park.	1 to 3 years
Extension to skate park	4 to 6 years
Improvements to public toilets and changing room provision on reserve.	4 to 6 years

Figure 2



5.2 Kaimanawa Reserve Future Development Concept Plan

- Create a "Village Green" type character to enhance the use of the Kaimanawa Reserve for cricket.
- Improve the current cricket field by extending the block slightly north to lengthen the outfield at the Rifle Range Road end. Define and protect the cricket oval with some form of physical barrier, and plant trees along road verges.
- Support improvements to the pavilion, including toilets, changing rooms, kitchen, storage and clubrooms.

5.2.1 ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe
Investigate options for improvements to pavilion	1 to 3 years
Grant lease for existing pavilion and practice nets	1 to 3 years
Extend wicket block to the north to lengthen outfield at Rifle range road end	2 to 4 years
Provide some form of physical barrier to enhance the security and use of the oval.	2 to 4 years
Plant trees on reserve	2 to 4 years
Install irrigation to cricket oval	2 to 4 years
Complete pavilion improvements	2 to 4 years
Amend lease to allow additional area for building extensions	2 to 4 years

Figure 3



5.3 Waipahihi Reserve Future Development Concept Plan

- Rename the reserve from Waipahihi Sportsground to Waipahihi Reserve.
- Retain the use of part of the reserve for informal sporting purposes, and encourage such casual use with the erection of permanent goalposts.
- Add further casual recreation space and facilities for young people and children, eg basketball half court and hoops, paving, hopscotch, four-square, play equipment, seating, skate park etc.
- Consider the return of the hall to Council control at the expiry of the current lease.
- Allow for future development of recreation facilities such as tennis courts and further bowling greens to meet the needs of a growing community.
- Reduce Lakeland Bowling and Sports Club current lease area to exclude the undeveloped area behind the bowling greens.
- Permit this area to be used for the purpose of a community garden until required for recreation purposes.

5.3.1 ACTION PLAN

Actions	Timeframe
Erect permanent goal posts for soccer and rugby on the reserve to support its use for informal sporting purposes.	1 to 3 years
Construct safe, well designed play spaces for young people and children on the reserve.	2 to 6 years
Negotiate reduction in lease area with Lakeland Bowling and Sports Club.	1 to 3 years
Grant a licence for occupation of part of the reserve by the Taupo Community Gardens Trust subject to the outcome of public consultation.	1 to 3 years

Figure 4



5.4 Centennial Park Future Development Concept Plan

- Business as usual for Racing Club and MIT leased areas.
- Extend the Gliding Club lease area.
- Support airstrip realignment.

5.4.1 ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe
Negotiate variation of lease with Taupo Gliding Club to include additional lease area.	1 to 3 years
Improve amenity of Centennial Drive boundary with further tree plantings in consultation with lessees.	1 to 3 years

Figure 5



5.5 Crown Park Future Development Concept Plan

- Extend the irrigation to the main part of the park to improve turf resilience so that any future expansion of soccer can be accommodated at Crown Park.
- Extend irrigation to Invergarry Road end of park.
- Renovate the Invergarry Road fields as required to improve their playing surface.
- Retain BMX in their current location for the medium to long term (5 to 10 years) as this site is already serviced and developed.
- Investigate alternative options for future long term relocation of BMX.
- Utilise the gully to the east of Taharepa Road for soakage of stormwater from the Miro Street industrial area. Construct stormwater detention areas down stream of the geothermal area and in such a way as to enhance recreational use of the gully.
- Construct a new playground on the reserve where it will better meet the needs of reserve users.
- Improve the landscaping along the Crown Road side of the reserve.

5.5.1 ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe
Install irrigation in main field area.	1 to 3 years
Install irrigation in Invergarry Road end of reserve	4 to 6 years
Level and resow Invergarry road end.	4 to 6 years
Undersow main field area	1 to 3 years
Investigate potential for Taharepa Gully to attenuate and soak stormwater from upstream catchment areas.	1 to 3 years
Clear gully floor and contour to create detention and soakage areas, walkways and planted areas for amenity and wildlife habitat.	4 to 6 years
Install new play equipment	4 to 6 years
Plant additional trees along Crown Road	1 to 3 years

Figure 6



5.6 Owen Delany Park Future Development Concept Plan

- Retain the areas currently used for rugby and cricket.
- Support cricket’s proposal to build an indoor training/club facility overlooking the cricket fields. Consider additional uses that would maximise the use of the facility.
- Investigate options to limit the loss of cricket and rugby balls into the gullies.
- Support improvements to the netball facility as detailed in action plan below. Provide space adjacent to the existing courts for future expansion if required.
- Continue to provide athletics track and facilities.
- Support improvements to the cycling facility as detailed in action plan below.
- Improve the parking areas between the netball courts, the velodrome and the dog obedience area to increase capacity in this area.
- Increase the area available to dog obedience and the kennel club to allow for a third show ring. Support improvements to the facilities as proposed by the clubs.
- Retain the archery area for use as required for archery and mediaeval sports and other compatible activities.

5.6.1 ACTION PLAN

Action	Timeframe
Allow the installation of training lights on netball courts 7 and 8 closest to clubrooms.	1 to 3 years
Provide barriers between levels of netball courts to prevent ball escape and player injury	1 to 3 years
Provide team shelters for use in adverse weather	4 to 6 years
Create two new netball courts if required	7 to 10 years
Resurface velodrome	4 to 6 years
Additional tree planting around velodrome for shelter	1 to 3 years
Enter into a lease or licence agreement with the Taupo Cycling Club to enable them to provide a warm-up track around inside of velodrome, terraced seating on banks overlooking velodrome, and officials stand inside track.	1 to 3 years
Provision of shared toilet facilities for users of velodrome, playground and dog obedience area.	4 to 6 years

Improvements to parking and internal roading layout in vicinity of velodrome, netball courts and dog obedience area.	7 to 10 years
Improvements to parking area used for rugby and cricket.	4 to 6 years
Ground contouring in the area to the south of the dog obedience rings to allow establishment of a third ring.	1 to 3 years
Grant a new lease to Taupo Dog Obedience Club Inc in the general vicinity of their existing clubrooms to allow construction of new premises.	1 to 3 years
Grant a lease to Taupo Cricket Association to allow development of a new indoor training facility	4 to 6 years
Investigate options to limit the loss of cricket and rugby balls into the gullies and implement the most cost effective option.	4 to 6 years

APPENDICES

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

Under the Reserves Act 1977 Taupo District Council is required to follow a set procedure for the preparation of management plans. This is set out in section 41 and is summarised below.

1. The Council makes a decision to prepare a management plan for a reserve or group of reserves
2. The Council gives public notice of the intention to prepare a reserve management plan calling for ideas, comments and suggestions
3. Issues are identified through consultation and research
4. The Council prepares and endorses a draft management plan for public notification
5. The Council gives public notice advising the availability of the draft management plan and inviting written suggestions and/or objections
6. The Council may have a hearing for verbal submissions to be made and to consider the suggestions and objections
7. If necessary, the Council modifies the draft management plan as a result of the submissions and hearing
8. The Council adopts the final management plan.

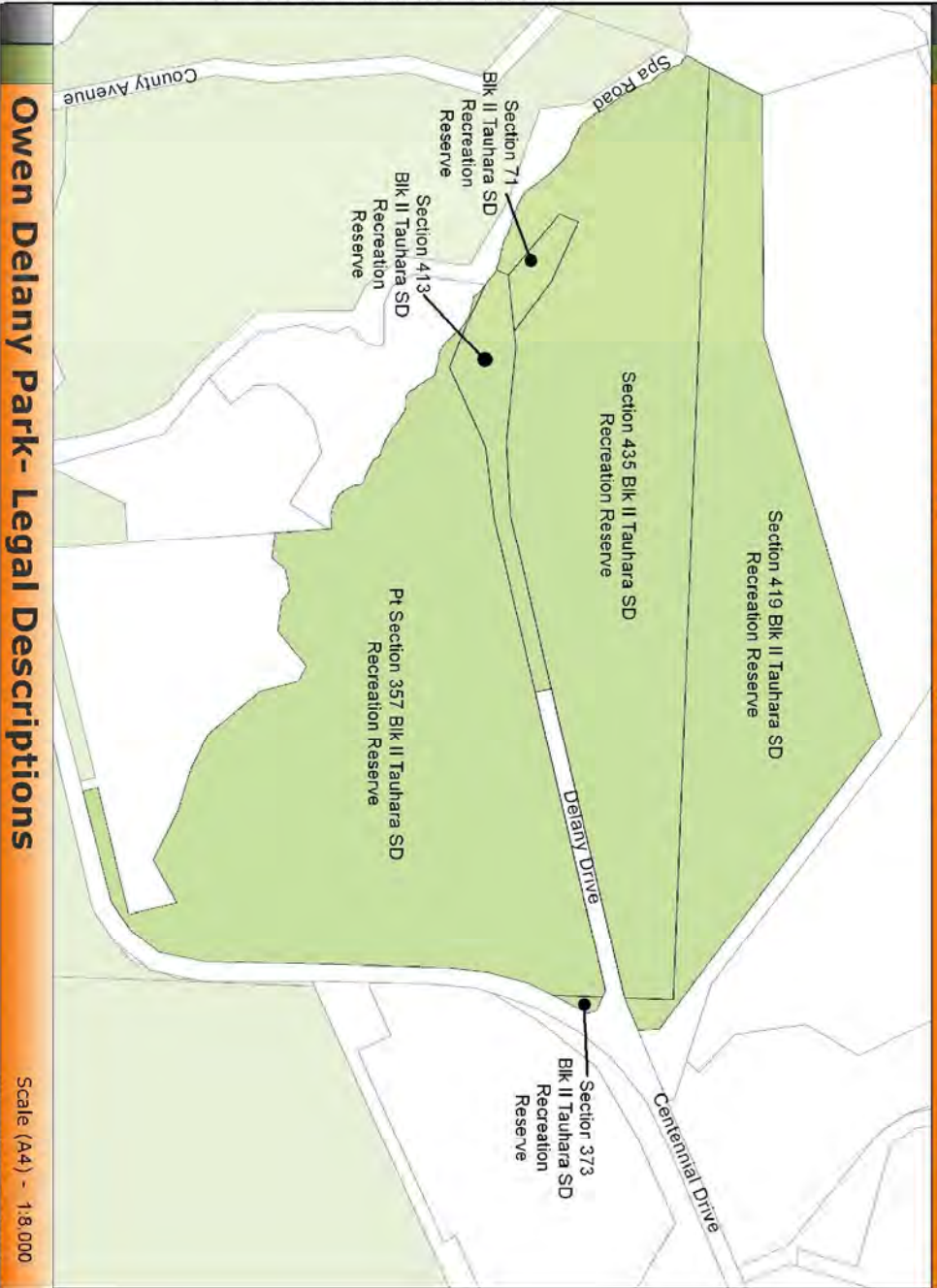
The plan, once adopted, can be amended to adapt to changing circumstances, or in accordance with increased knowledge.

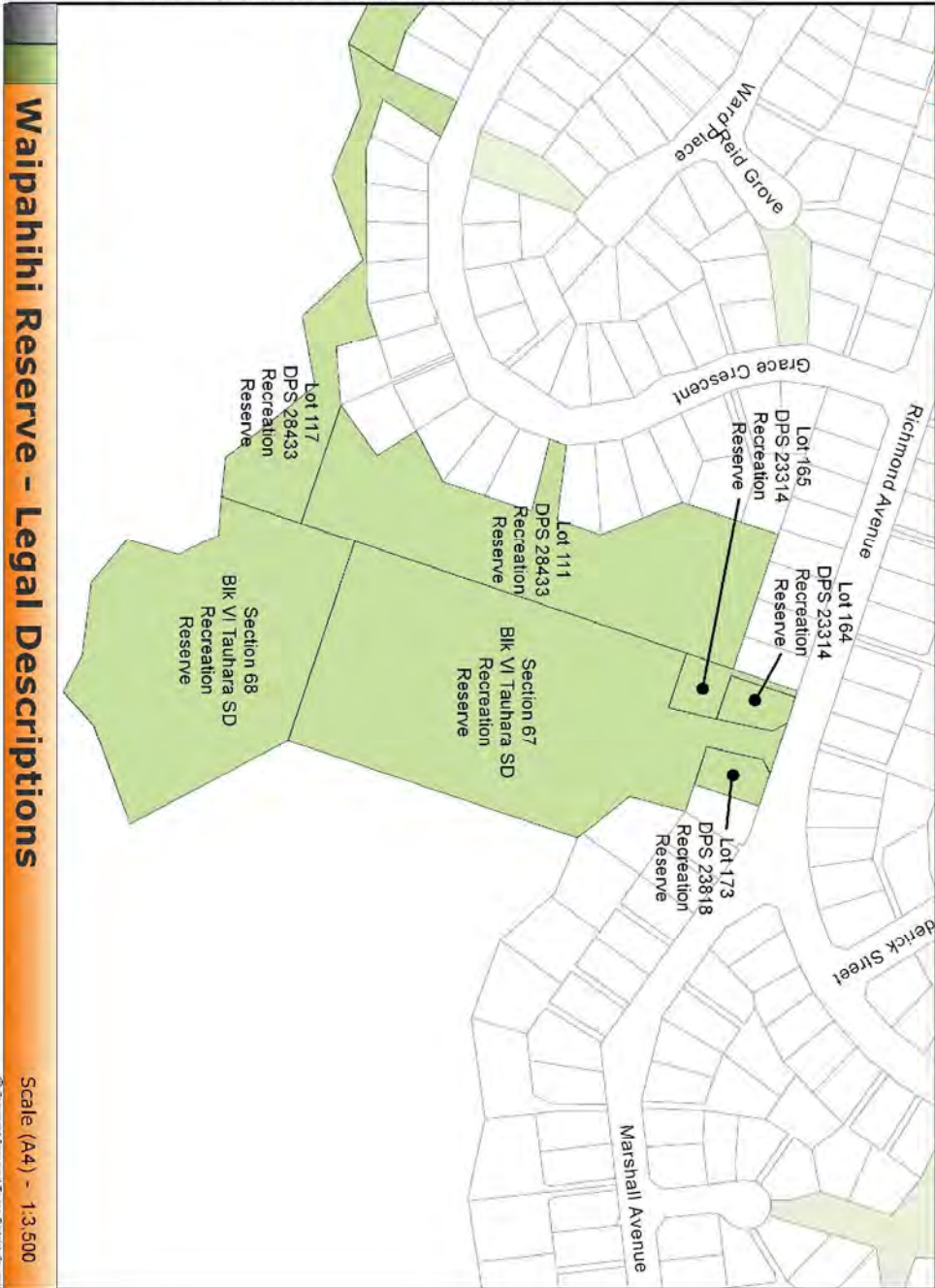
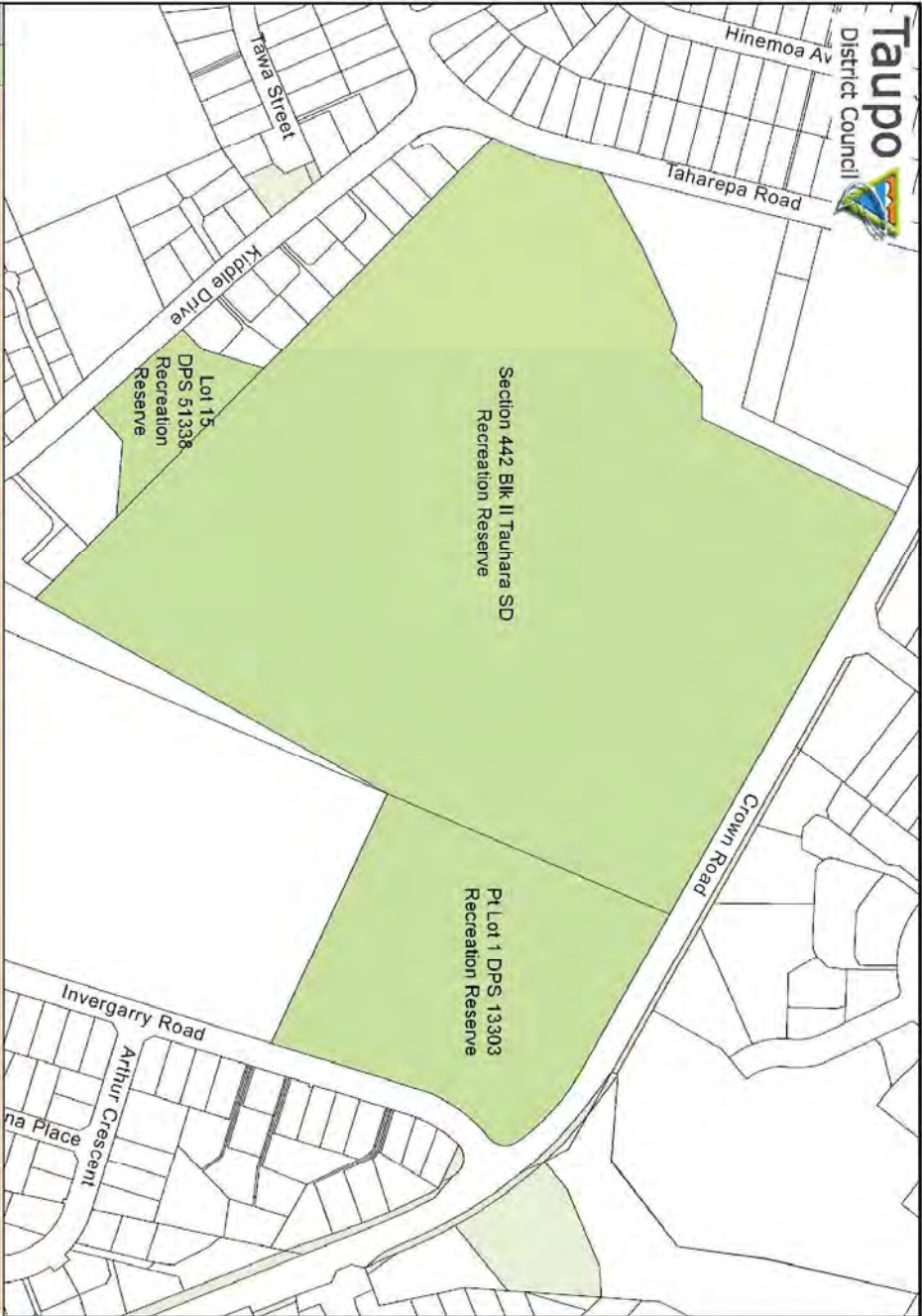
TAUPO SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

RESERVE NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA	ACQUISITION	CT/CFR	CLASSIFICATION
Crown Park	Sec 442 SO 53832 Block II Tauhara Survey District	(hectares) 18.73	1986 p1125 Taupo Borough Council appointed to control and manage reserve. Reserve still vested in Crown.	SA46/110 (cancelled)	Recreation Reserve classified 1986 p1125
	Pt Lot 1 DPS 13303	4.2471	Transferred to Taupo Borough Council on 24 May 1971 in fee simple title. Part of land taken for Tauhara College.	SA12C/1307 (part cancelled)	Recreation reserve declared 2009 p3078
	Lot 15 DPS 51338	0.7115	Parent title 41B/378 acquired by Taupo Borough Council from the Crown on 9 March 1988 (Section 1 SO 56911). Land subdivided and title cancelled.	SA41B/378 (cancelled)	Lot 15 vested in TDC as Recreation reserve on 20 April 1989 pursuant to Section 306 LGA1974. Classified as recreation reserve 2009 p3078
Total area		23.6886			
Waipahihi Reserve	Lot 164 DPS 23314	0.0775	Transferred from Crown to Borough Council on 26 May 1981. Previously held for State Housing purposes.	SA21C/1471	Recreation reserve declared 2009 p3078
	Lot 165 DPS 23314	0.0873	Transferred from Crown to Borough Council on 6 Jan 1978. Previously held for State Housing purposes.	SA21C/1472	Recreation reserve declared 2009 p3078
	Sec 67 SO 49356 BLK VI Tauhara SD	2.2	Vested in Taupo Borough Council 1979 p2695		Classified as recreation reserve 1979 p2695
	Sec 68 SO 49436 Blk VI Tauhara SD	1.587	Vested in Taupo Borough Council 1979 p2695		Classified as recreation reserve 1979 p2695
	Lot 111 DPS 28433	1.4136	Vested in Taupo District Council 1990 p4515	SA26A/1415	Set apart as Recreation Reserve subject to Reserves Act pursuant to sect 52 of the Public Works Act (1990 p4515)

	Pt Lot 117 DPS 28433	0.6008	Vested in Taupo District Council 1990 p4515	SA26A/1418	Set apart as Recreation Reserve subject to Reserves Act pursuant to sect 52 of the Public Works Act (1990 p4515)
	Lot 112 DPS 28434	0.4497	Vested in Taupo District Council 1990 p4515	SA26A/1476	Set apart as Recreation Reserve subject to Reserves Act pursuant to sect 52 of the Public Works Act (1990 p4515)
	Lot 173 DPS 23818	0.0797	Transferred from the Crown to District Council on 14 Oct 1991. Ex-postal housing property.	SA45B/240	Recreation reserve declared 2009 p3078
	Total area	6.4956			
Hickling Park	Sec 80 SO 42624	4.17	Purchased by Borough from Crown on 20 year deferred payment licence in 1964. New title issued 11 December 1984. Transmission to TDC in 2006.	SA45D/469	Declared local Purpose (Community Buildings) reserve 2006 p 790
	Lot 2 DPS 75775	1.946	Vested in Taupo District Council 1996 p456	CFR322256	Set apart as Recreation Reserve subject to Reserves Act pursuant to sect 52(4) of the Public Works Act (2006 p 3465)
	Lot 1 DPS 75775	0.307	Vested in Taupo District Council 1996 p456	CFR322256	Set apart as Recreation Reserve subject to Reserves Act pursuant to sect 52(4) of the Public Works Act (2006 p 3465)
	Sec 1 SO 40260	0.9313	Purchased by TDC from Birell Properties Ltd in 1996.	SA45D/469	Declared recreation reserve 2006 p 790
	Total area	7.3543			

Owen Delaney Park	Part Section 357 SO 46619 Block II Tauhara Survey District	25.7501	1973 p793 vested in Taupo Borough Council		Recreation reserve classified 1988 p2087
	Section 373 SO 45742 Block II Tauhara Survey District	0.0662	1974 p 2152 vested in Taupo Borough Council		Recreation reserve classified 1988 p2087
	Section 435 Block II Tauhara Survey District	19.59	1982 p3399 vested in Taupo Borough Council		Recreation reserve classified 1982 p3399
	Section 413 Block II Tauhara Survey District	1.7202	Stopped road (Aerodrome Road)	SA23B/218	Recreation reserve declaration 1988 p391
	Section 419 Block II Tauhara Survey District	13.973	1982 p3399 vested in Taupo Borough Council		Recreation reserve classified 1982 p3399
	Section 71 Block II Tauhara Survey District	0.4777	1982 p3399 vested in Taupo Borough Council		Recreation reserve classified 1982 p3399
	Total area	61.5772			
Centennial Park		63.1309	Purchased by Borough from Crown on 10 year deferred payment licence in 1969. Transmission from Borough to TDC in 1997.	CFR410072 (Issued Sept 2008)	Recreation reserve classified 1981 p3233
	Sec 17 SO 45258 Blk III Tauhara SD	19.0754	Transferred from Landcorp to Taupo District Council in 1997 and amalgamated CT issued.	CFR410072 (Issued Sept 2008)	Recreation reserve classified 2001 p1793
	Lot 1 DPS 72579	5.3184	Vested in TDC in 2005 on deposit of DP342153.	CFR410072 (Issued Sept 2008)	Recreation reserve classified 2005 p2263
	Lot 1 DP 342153				
Total area	87.5247				
Kaimanawa Reserve	Pt Sec 309 SO 44610 Blk II Tauhara SD	2.0059	1972 p1014 vested in Taupo Borough Council as recreation reserve.		Classified as recreation reserve 1984 p103
Total	188.6463				







Hickling Park - Legal Descriptions

Scale (A4) - 1:3,000



Kaimanawa Reserve - Legal Descriptions

Scale (A4) - 1:2,500

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LEASES OF SPORTS GROUND RESERVES

HICKLING PARK			
LESSEE	LEASED AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY
Taupo Tokelau Community	Building site	14 years	*9 May 2003
Taupo Highland Pipe Band	Clubroom site	14 years	*30 September 2004
Taupo Amateur Radio Club	Clubroom site	14 years	*31 December 2004
Taupo Harriers Club	Clubroom site	14 years	30 June 2010
Taupo Model Railway Club	Clubroom site	14 years	14 November 2010
Taupo Lions Club	Clubroom site	25 years	31 October 2011
Taupo Silver Citizens Band	Clubroom site	19 years	30 June 2013
Taupo Fishing Club	Clubroom site	14 years	14 November 2014
Taupo Vintage Car Club	Clubroom site	14 years	9 December 2015
NZ Red Cross	Building site	14 years	30 November 2016
Taupo Darts Association	Clubroom site	14 years	31 July 2017
**Taupo Rod & Custom Club	Clubroom site	9 years	1 August 2017
Great Lake Hockey Club	Clubroom site & turf	19 years 364 days	29 June 2023
OWEN DELANY PARK			
LESSEE	LEASED AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY
Taupo Rugby Sub Union	20 hectares approx as defined on lease plan	33 years + 33 year ROR	7 October 2017 1 October 2050
Taupo Cricket Incorporated	17.1 hectares approx as defined on lease plan	5 yrs + 5 yrs + 5 yrs	11 October 2011
Taupo Netball Centre Inc	Clubrooms site	14 years	31 December 2008
Taupo Canine Obedience Club Incorporated	Clubrooms site	5 years	30 June 2010
Taupo Kennel Association Inc	Clubrooms site	5 years	30 September 2003
Taupo Rugby Football Club Inc	Clubrooms site	14 years + 14 years	31 March 2016
Tauhara Gymnastics	Gymnasium site	14 years	30 November 2010
KAIMANAWA RESERVE			
LESSEE	LEASED AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY
**Taupo Cricket Incorporated	Clubroom	14 years	30 June 2022
CROWN PARK			
LESSEE	LEASED AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY
Taupo BMX Club	BMX Track	15 years	30 September 2023
**Taupo Association Football Club	Clubroom building site	14 years	30 November 2021
CENTENNIAL PARK			
LESSEE	LEASED AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY
Taupo Gliding Club	26.0794 ha	21 years	11 September 2026
Taupo Racing Club	35.0384 ha	21 years + 21 yr ROR	31 December 2021 31 December 2042
MIT Development Limited (Taupo Motorsports Park Limited)	18.2729 ha	33 yrs + 33 yr ROR (x2)	11 September 2038 11 September 2071 11 September 2104
Taupo Car Club Incorporated (assigned to TMP Ltd)	10.4462 ha	33 yrs + 33 yr ROR (x2)	11 September 2038 11 September 2071 11 September 2104
WAIPAHIHI SPORTSGROUND			
LESSEE	LEASE AREA	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE
Lakeland Bowling Club	Clubroom building and bowling greens	14 years	30 November 2022
Taupo Youth Arts Trust	Waipahihi Hall	13 years	30 April 2017

* Refer 4.7(c). These leases have expired while awaiting the development of this management plan and relevant policy

** Approved for granting by Council but not yet executed

APPENDIX 4

REFERENCES

1. Tongariro Domain Management Plan 2005
2. Taupo Urban Area and Acacia Bay Neighbourhood Recreation Reserves Management Plan 2006
3. Crown Park Management Plan 1991
4. Waipahihi Sportsground Management Plan 1989
5. Centennial Park Management Plan 2001
6. Owen Delany Park Management Plan 2005
7. Kaimanawa Reserve Management Plan 1997

BYLAWS AND LEGISLATION DEFINING OFFENCES AND RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES ON RESERVES

1. *Extract from* TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL BYLAW NO. 1: 2008

THAT TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL HEREBY MAKES THE FOLLOWING BYLAW PURSUANT TO THE POWERS CONTAINED WITHIN SECTIONS 145 AND 146 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 AND ANY OTHER ACT OR AUTHORITY ENABLING THE COUNCIL IN THAT BEHALF:

1. SHORT TITLE

The short title of this bylaw shall be the 'Taupo District Council General Bylaw No. 1: 2008'.

2. COMMENCEMENT

This bylaw shall come into operation on the 26th day of August 2008.

PART 6 – RESERVES

This part of the bylaw supersedes the bylaw administered by the Taupo District Council, Taupo District Council Bylaw No.1 – Parks and Reserves (which incorporated New Zealand Standard (NZS) 9201 Chapter 17: 1972 'Parks and Reserves'). The revision of this bylaw has been necessary to reflect the legislative changes, particularly in the Local Government Act 1974, The Local Government Act 2002, the Reserves Act 1977, the Resource Management Act 1991 and to more accurately reflect the needs of the community. Also over the last 15 years there has been a gradual evolution of local authority procedures and operating styles. Reference should be made to Part 1: Introductory for any other definitions not included in this Part.

SCOPE

The Local Government Act 1974 and the Local Government Act 2002 give authority to the Council to adopt bylaws to regulate activities, which can be carried out on roads, public places and reserves. This part of the by-law does not supersede any other part of this bylaw and, rather, should be read in conjunction. However, the following have specific relevance to Reserves. The Reserves Act 1977, Section 684 of the Local Government Act 1974, Sections 146 and 147 of the Local Government Act 2002 and other relevant Acts e.g Health Act 1956, Litter Act 1979, Trespass Act 1980, outline some of the powers and requirements of the Council in regards to reserves. Areas of control so prescribed by this legislation are not necessarily repeated in this bylaw, and therefore the relevant sections of the Reserves Act 1977, Local Government Act 1974, the Local Government Act 2002 and other Acts should be read in conjunction with it. In addition, the following should be read in conjunction with, but not in replacement of, the Taupo District Council Dog Policy and Bylaw, Taupo District Council Liquor By-laws and Reserve Management Plans.

DEFINITIONS and INTERPRETATION

FURNITURE: Includes, but is not restricted to rubbish bins, bbq's, bike racks, drinking fountains, seats, tables.

PARKING means the standing of a vehicle in any place for a period in excess of 5 minutes and *PARK* shall have a corresponding meaning.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT: includes, but is not restricted to, adventure playground, flying fox, sand pit, slides and swings.

PLAYGROUND SURFACE includes, but is not restricted to, bark, safety surfacing and safety underlay.

RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN provides direction on the future use, maintenance, protection and development of reserve(s) held under the Reserves Act 1977.

601 Offences and Breaches

Every person committing any breach relating to a reserve, must, upon request by any authorised officer, employee or agent, immediately leave the reserve and may be prohibited from appearing on the reserve as a trespasser.

602 Public Safety

(a) Council reserves the right to erect public safety, temporary prohibition signs, and information signs as and when it sees fit, for the safety of the public.

(b) No person shall:

i. Act in a manner which would be likely to interfere with the safety, use and enjoyment of the reserve by other persons lawfully using the reserve;

ii. drive or ride a vehicle in a manner that compromises the safety of other reserve users.

(c) In areas set aside for use by motorised vehicles, the Council may prescribe a speed limit to such parts and make other rules for the orderly conduct of traffic and parking. Where no speed limit has been fixed by the Council, the driving of any vehicle on that part of the reserve at a speed in excess of 20km/h is prohibited.

603 Disturbance or Damage to Reserves

No person shall damage, interfere with, destroy or remove any property belonging to the council placed or erected on any reserve including playground equipment, playground surface, lighting, fences, furniture, tiles, ornaments, sculptures, statue or other public art, poles or any other structure.

604 Access to Reserves

(a) No person or vehicle shall enter or leave any reserve except through the openings, gateways, entrances, or exits provided for that purpose - except where otherwise authorised by Council.

(b) Every reserve shall be open to the public at all times except when, from time to time, Council determines that any reserve shall be closed or entry restricted to the public for a determined amount of time for the purposes outlined in c (i) and c (ii)

(c) Council may close or restrict entry to all or any portion of a reserve:

i) during such times as are considered necessary to prevent damage to, or allow maintenance of the reserve. Such restrictions or closure shall be advertised by appropriate signs placed at the entrances to the reserve or adjacent to the place where the restriction or closure is in force as may be appropriate in the circumstance;

ii) for such periods as are considered appropriate for the exclusive use of particular groups or for particular types of activities.

605 Fees and Charges

(a) The Council may charge persons or groups for the right to have exclusive use of any reserve or part of a reserve.

(b) No person shall enter onto or remain on any reserve without having first paid any entrance or other fee which may at the time be payable for the use of or access to the reserve.

606 Restricted Activities on Reserves:

No person shall:

(a) Play or practice golf on a reserve. Exceptions require written permission from the Council.

(b) Play or practice any sport outside those areas designated for that purpose. Exceptions require written permission from the Council.

(c) Permit or cause wastage of water or, in any manner, pollute any water on any reserve.

(d) Park or store a vehicle, boat, or vessel, on a reserve on a regular, periodic, or continuous basis. Exceptions require written permission from the Council.

(e) Ride, lead or allow any stock, poultry or other animal (except a dog being exercised in accordance with the Taupo District Council Dog Policy and Bylaw) to wander or graze within the limits of any reserve unless otherwise authorised, except upon parts which have been set aside for such purposes or with prior written permission from the Council.

THE FOREGOING BYLAW WAS MADE BY RESOLUTION [3939] OF COUNCIL AT AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2008.

IN WITNESS thereof the Common]
Seal of the Taupo District Council]
has hereby Order of Council]
here unto been affixed in the]
presence of:]

Rick Cooper
MAYOR CHIEF

Rob Williams
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2. Extract from RESERVES ACT 1977

Section 94 Offences on reserves

- (1) Every person commits an offence against this Act who, without being authorised (the proof of which shall be on the person charged) by the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body, as the case may require,—
- (a) Lights any fire on a reserve except in a fireplace in any camping ground or picnic place established by the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body; or
 - (b) Causes or allows any cattle, sheep, horses, or other animals of any kind whatsoever to trespass on any reserve; or
 - (c) Liberates any animal on any reserve; or
 - (d) Plants any tree, shrub, or plant of any kind, or sows or scatters the seed of any tree, shrub, or plant of any kind, or introduces any substance injurious to plant life, on any reserve; or
 - (e) Wilfully breaks or damages any fence, building, apparatus, or erection on any reserve; or
 - (f) Removes or wilfully damages any, or any part of, any wood, tree, shrub, fern, plant, stone, mineral, gravel, kauri gum, furniture, utensil, tool, [protected New Zealand object], relic, or thing of any kind, on any reserve; or
 - (g) Wilfully digs, cuts, or excavates the sod on any reserve; or
 - (h) Not being the lessee or licensee [or concessionaire] of the reserve or any part thereof, occupies or uses any land in a reserve for cultivation or any other purpose; or
 - (i) Takes or destroys or wilfully injures or in any manner disturbs or interferes with any animal or bird or other fauna or the nest or egg of any bird on any reserve; or
 - (j) Deposits or throws on any reserve (being a reserve which is not a public place within the meaning of section 2 of the [Litter Act 1979]) any substance or article of a dangerous or offensive nature or likely to be of a dangerous or offensive nature or any rubbish, except in a place or receptacle approved or provided by the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body; or
 - (k) Erects any building, sign, hoarding, or apparatus on any reserve; or
- [(ka) Carries on within any reserve any activity for which a concession is required under section 59A of this Act; or]
- [(kb) Carries on within any reserve vested in an administering body any trade, business, or occupation; or]
- (l) Trespasses with any vehicle or boat or aircraft or hovercraft on any reserve, in breach of any prohibition under this Act; or
 - (m) In any way interferes with a reserve or damages the recreational, scenic, historic, scientific, or natural features or the flora and fauna therein:

Provided that nothing in any authorisation by the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body to do any act which would otherwise be unlawful under paragraph (c)

or paragraph (i) of this subsection shall be deemed to authorise any person to do any act in contravention of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act.

- (2) Every person commits an offence against this Act who—
- (a) When required by notice from the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body to remove any animal from a reserve, fails to do so within the period specified in the notice; or
 - (b) Being the driver of any vehicle or the pilot of any aircraft or the person in charge of any boat or hovercraft that is illegally on a reserve, fails or refuses to remove it from the reserve when so requested by any officer as defined in section 93(5) of this Act; or
 - (c) Without a lease, licence, permit, or other right or authority, does or causes to be done any act, matter, or thing for which a [concession,] lease, licence, permit, or other right or authority is required by this Act or by any regulations under this Act; or
 - [(d) Not being an officer of the Department or a ranger, acting in either case in the course of his official duties, enters any nature reserve in breach of section 20(2)(c) of this Act, or in breach of any condition imposed in any permit granted or notice given under section 57 of this Act; or]
 - [(da) Being a person in charge of any boat, anchors or moors that boat in breach of a notice given under section 57(3) or section 59(3) of this Act or in breach of any permit granted under section 57(7) or section 59(7) of this Act; or]
 - (e) While any scientific reserve or any part of such a reserve is subject to a notice under section 21(2)(b) of this Act prohibiting entry—
 - (i) Not being an officer of the Department or a ranger, acting in either case in the course of his official duties, or not being the holder of a permit issued under section 59 of this Act, enters the reserve or that part, as the case may be, in breach of the said section 59; or
 - (ii) Being the holder of such a permit, does not comply with any term or condition of the permit; or
 - (f) Counterfeits or without due authority issues any [concession,] lease, licence, permit, or other authority required by this Act or by any regulations under this Act; or
 - (g) Unlawfully alters, obliterates, defaces, pulls up, removes, interferes with, or destroys any boundary marks, or any stamp, mark, sign, poster, licence, lease, permit, or other right or authority issued by the Minister or the Commissioner or an administering body.
- (3) Every person commits an offence against this Act who uses, receives, sells, or otherwise disposes of any wood, timber, bark, flax, mineral, gravel, kauri gum, [protected New Zealand object], relic, or other substance or thing whatsoever knowing the same to have been removed unlawfully from any reserve.
- (4) Every person commits an offence against this Act who, without being authorised by the Minister, or the Commissioner, or the administering body,—
- (a) Is in possession of any firearm, weapon, trap, net, or other like object in a reserve; or

- (b) Discharges any firearm, weapon, or other instrument on a reserve; or
- (c) From outside a reserve, shoots at any fauna or any other object or thing inside the reserve with any firearm, weapon, or other instrument,—

and, where any person is found discharging a firearm, weapon, or other instrument in contravention of this subsection, section 95(6) of this Act shall apply in respect of that firearm, weapon, or other instrument in all respects as if it were illegally in the possession of that person in the reserve:

Provided that nothing in any such authorisation shall be deemed to authorise any person to do any act in contravention of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act.

- (5) Where any person commits an offence against subsection (1)(j) of this section, the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering body, as the case may be, may cause the removal of any objects deposited or thrown in breach of that subsection, and the cost of that removal shall be assessed by a [District Court Judge] and shall be recoverable summarily from that person in like manner as a fine.
- (6) Any person convicted of an offence under this section shall, in addition to any penalty for which he may be liable for the offence, pay twice the full market value of any substance removed from the reserve or pay for the damage done to the reserve, or to any forest, wood, timber, flax, or scrub growing or being thereon; and, in the case of an offence against subsection (1)(a) of this section, for the cost of extinguishing the fire and the expenses incurred in investigating the origin of the fire. That value or damage or cost shall be assessed by a [District Court Judge], and shall be recoverable summarily in like manner as a fine. The full market value shall be deemed to be that amount which the Crown would have received by way of purchase price if the Crown had removed the substance from the reserve and offered it for sale on reasonable terms.

Synopsis

Every person who does anything on a reserve that is prohibited by this section commits an offence.

RE94.01 Mens rea

Mens rea (intent/wilfulness) will not be an ingredient of an offence under subs (1) unless the paragraph creating the offence expressly requires it (by use of such words as “wilfully”): see *Wallace v Bryant* [1956] NZLR 1002 (SC).

In a prosecution for an offence against the previous version of subs (1)(f) for wilfully cutting down trees on a reserve, the defendant admitted that it had cut down the trees without authority, but, as they were cut down in the mistaken belief that they were on the defendant’s land, they were not cut down *wilfully* and no offence had been committed. The Court decided that the defendant was under a duty to ascertain the boundaries of the defendant’s land before commencing to cut the trees in order to determine whether they were on the defendant’s land or not. If he or she does not do so and is recklessly careless in encroaching in the reserve to cut the trees and knowingly and intentionally cuts them, he or she is guilty of *wilfully* cutting them: *Auckland CC v McAlpine-Jeffries Ltd* (1967) 12 MCD 91.

RE94.02 Creation of offence

In *Dickson v Wairoa DC* [2006] 2 NZLR 544, the council passed a resolution purporting to prohibit the parking of vessels overnight on a reserve, and prosecuted Dickson for leaving his fishing boat on a trailer on the reserve. The charge under s 94, alleged the person illegally on the reserve failed to remove the vessel when requested. The Court found that the passing of the resolution was not sufficient to constitute the activity as unlawful. It would be necessary for the council to make a bylaw

to that effect, under s 106.

RE94.03 Wilful intention or reckless carelessness

Under this subsection, an act or omission is wilful where the person knows what they are doing and intends to do what they are doing. If that act or omission amounts to a breach of their duty and therefore, to negligence, they will only be guilty of wilful negligence if they knew that they were committing, and intended to commit, a breach of their duty, or are recklessly careless in the sense of not caring whether their act or omission is or is not a breach of duty. See *Auckland CC v McAlpine-Jeffries Ltd* (1967) 12 MCD 91.

Mens rea/wrongful intent is only an essential ingredient of an offence under s 94(1) if the paragraph creating the offence expressly requires it by use of the word “wilfully”. See *Wallace v Bryant* [1956] NZLR 1002.

RE94.04 Private land sharing boundary with reserve

Under s 94(1)(f), where private land shares its boundaries with a public reserve, the owner of that private land has a duty to ascertain the boundaries of their land before commencing to cut down any trees, in order to determine whether or not the trees are actually on their land. See *Auckland CC v McAlpine-Jeffries Ltd* (1967) 12 MCD 91.

RE94.05 Resolution prohibiting parking of a boat on a reserve

The Court considered enforcement of a resolution prohibiting parking of a fishing boat on a reserve. The Court found the administering body had no general discretion under s 40 Reserves Act 1977 to create an offence by mere resolution, nor did it have that power under s 61. The s 61 power needed to be supplemented by a more specific power, conferred by either the Reserves Act 1977 or a bylaw. See *Dickson v Wairoa DC* [2006] 2 NZLR 544, at paras 27 and 31.