



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

Hipapatua

Reserve Management Plan



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1 INTRODUCTION AND STATUS

The primary purpose of this Management Plan is to set out the management and development requirements of the Hipapatua Recreation Reserve.

As an administering body, Taupō District Council has the responsibility of preparing policy for the management of reserves that it controls. 'Reserve Management Plans' are required under the Reserves Act 1977 for reserves within the Taupō District, in order for Council to outline its general intentions for their use, development, maintenance, protection and preservation.

This plan has been prepared in consultation with the community in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. Through consideration of comments and submissions received through this consultation process the plan was adopted by Taupō District Council on 22 June 2017.

This Plan should be considered as a statement of intent by the Taupo District Council and a reflection of the expectations of the country.

The expected life of this plan is 10 years at which time it may be necessary to undertake a review of the management plan.

The Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is classified as a Recreation Reserve under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. The appropriate provisions of that Act shall have effect in relation to the Hipapatua recreation reserve. This is for the purpose of providing areas for the 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.

The Hipapatua Recreation Reserve will be administered under the appropriate provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 ensuring that—

1. The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific powers conferred on the administering body by sections 53 and 54, to any bylaws under this Act applying to the reserve, and to such conditions and restrictions as the Taupo District Council considers to be necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it.
2. Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve (being for recreation): provided that nothing in this subsection shall authorise the doing of anything with respect to fauna that would contravene any provision of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act, or the doing of anything with respect to archaeological features in any reserve that would contravene any provision of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
3. Those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the

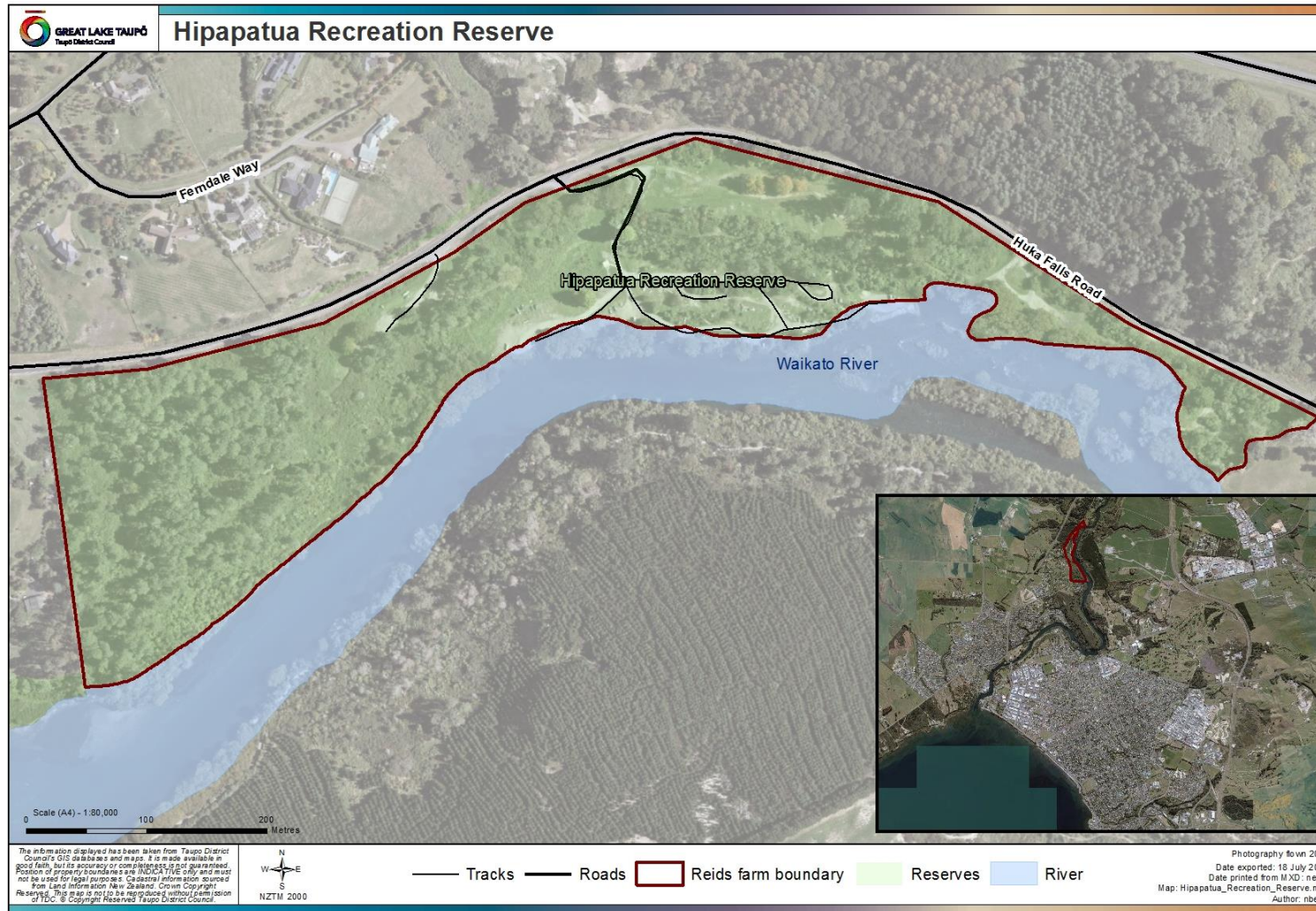
reserve shall be conserved.

The reserve is Crown Land vested in the Taupo District Council in Trust as recreation reserve.

The Concept Plan and Policies contained in Sections 5 and 6 of this reserve are considered to have statutory weight, and activities are not permitted that contravene these sections. These statutory provisions have been developed to ensure that the Hipapatua Recreation Reserve;

- Is used and managed in a manner that best protects the important values associated with the reserve,
- Implements the vision (Section 5) for the reserve, and
- Is consistent with the statutory framework associated with the reserve.

Figure One: Hipapatua Recreation Reserve Location Map



2 CONTEXT AND HISTORY

2.1 Site Description

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is located around 4km north of Taupo Township, on the banks to the west of the Waikato River. The Waikato River is the dominant and unifying feature of the surrounding landscape.

The topography of the area has been shaped by the rate and pattern of wear by water on the underlying geology. This interaction of water and geology results in the River's width, flow rate, sound and changing level over the entire length of the upper valley. The pinkish, hydrothermally altered pumice cliffs at the Taupo end, the alluvial pumice terraces at Hells Gate, the lacustrine mudstone of the Huka Falls the rhyolite of the Aratiatia rapids and the lower rock strewn terraces reflect the interplay between water and geology.

Native vegetation dominates the river terraces and escarpment in the Huka Falls area while exotic vegetation can be found north and south of this area. The pockets of vegetation in an essentially highly modified landscape further enhance the special qualities of the upper Waikato River.

The reserve is accessed by car and foot from Huka Falls Road, and by river on the Waikato. The reserve is elongated and extends approximately 1.2km of Huka Falls road, covering an area of approximately 13.5 hectares. It is bordered by Huka Falls Road to the west and the Waikato River to the east, Huka Lodge to the north, and a mixture of residential and scenic reserve to the south.

The Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is located on the scenic route of Huka Falls Road, which follows the Waikato River from Taupo to Wairakei. The reserve is within close proximity to the Wairakei Tourist Park – a cluster of tourist attractions based on the natural features and geothermal activity of the area; including Huka Falls, Craters of the Moon, Aratiatia Dam, scenic reserves, recreation walks and bike rides. Wairakei Tourist Park is also a hub for tourist activities in the area, including a cluster of tourist operations and accommodation options.

The Hipapatua Recreation Reserve provides an attractive open space corridor adjacent to the Waikato River. The sense of open space and direct access to the Waikato River is a key attraction to those who use the reserve.

2.1.1 Built Character

The reserve is dominated with vegetation, and generally has a low level of built character. Modified areas are typically associated with the reserve's recreational activities. These include mown grass areas for camping and picnicking, and structures such as reserve signage, toilets, rubbish bins, bollards, kayak boat ramp access, and kayak slalom gates. Roading is mostly informal dirt or gravel vehicle access extending through the middle and north area of the reserve. The main road into the reserve is sealed from the entrance at Huka Falls Road to the

kayak boat ramp. Several walking tracks extend throughout the area. A jetty-like structure is also present; extending into the river for access to the water monitoring gauge.

2.1.2 Vegetation

Existing vegetation includes a mix of exotic trees, mostly wilding species such as; pine, willow, with broom, gorse and blackberry dominating the edges of mown areas. Planted deciduous exotic species are located at the centre of the reserve, and intermittent plantings of native species are dispersed throughout the area. Native vegetation has been established along the main road access into the reserve, along with clusters of native plantings throughout the camping areas. This vegetation is dense in places and is in excess of 3m.

2.1.3 River Margin

The river margin has a high level of natural character being largely unmodified, with few built structures present. The margin is dominated by exotic weed vegetation, including willow, blackberry, and grass. There is intermittent native flax, pittosporum, pate and coprosma growing amongst some areas. Access points through the vegetation to the river are generally informal. In some locations the access is eroded to low grass and muddy soil.

2.1.4 Other Features

Rock boulders are located intermittently throughout the mown grass areas. The boulders are approximately seating height and delineate the more flat grass area.

2.1.5 Activity Locations

The main recreation activities occur in the centre of the reserve at the second access point (when heading north on Huka Falls Road from Taupō). This vehicle access point leads to the main camping areas and appears as the 'main' entrance to the reserve. There is an 'upper' area and a 'lower' area. The upper area is predominantly set aside for camping and is an open grassed area with a fringe of native trees. The lower area contains a main carpark, toilets, river access, and a network of unsealed roads through a mixture of open grass and flax planting. This area leads to the kayak launch area and slalom gates.

The North and South ends of the reserve are typified by dense vegetation from the road to the river edge.

2.2 History

From early human settlement to its current recreation uses, the reserve has been part of the Taupō districts interesting and varied history. Many people appreciate the reserve as a park and camping area, and it is also valued for its historic presence. Adjacent to the Waikato River, the reserve area provided transportation, food and shelter for early Māori. It is part of Taupō's wider natural picture, a link between Lake Taupō and the Wairakei geothermal area, and the livelihood and benefits humans have had from both.

2.2.1 Human History

The original inhabitants (tangata whenua) of the Taupo area were the Māori iwi who remain here today: Ngāti Tuwharetoa. The tribe claim descent from Ngatoroirangi, navigator and high priest of the Arawa migration canoe. After the Arawa canoe made landfall in Aotearoa/New

Zealand in about 750 AD, Ngatoroirangi and a relative from the same canoe, Tia, competed to be the first to explore the central plateau region. The name "Taupo" comes either from a cliff that Tia named "Taupō-nui-a-tia" (the great cloak of Tia), or from Ngatoroirangi who set up camp by the lake at night: tau (to settle or rest) and po (night).

Ngati Rauhoto are the hapu of Ngati Tuwharetoa with mana whenua over the Wairakei Block and the Wairakei geothermal field. Ngati Tahu ngati whaoa are the tangata whenua for the area below Te Toka-a-Tia (the Rock of Tia).

Early Europeans first came to the Taupo area as missionaries to convert Maori to Christianity. During the New Zealand Wars, the Town of Taupo was formed as an armed constabulary post and the land was subsequently purchased by the government.

The Waikato River below Ngāwapurua (Full James) Rapids was navigable by canoe and would have been an important communications and transport link between Taupo and Rotorua for the communities along it. Transportation modes have changed, but the river is still important to New Zealanders for recreation, fishing and leisure activities, all easily accessed from the reserve.

2.2.2 Development

In a temperate climate like Taupō in winter, geothermally heated water would have been a life saver over the winter months. Taupo has a lot of geothermal areas, especially at Wairakei, and many spots can be found in the Waikato River near Hipapatua Recreation Reserve. Taupō's geothermal areas are taonga (treasures) to iwi, and some pools in the region are waahi tapu (sacred). Maori legend says the geothermal activity in this area was created when Ngatoroirangi, the tohunga of Te Arawa waka, called on his sisters in Hawaiki to send him warmth when he was near freezing to death on the slopes of Tongariro. They sent demigods with baskets of glowing embers to warm him (Stokes, 1983 & 1991), forming places like White Island, Rotoiti, Rotorua, Wairakei and Tongariro on their journey.

The abundance of geothermal water and other volcanic attractions led to the Geyser House Hotel being built in 1881 to entice European tourists to the area. As more people began coming to Taupo, the Huka Lodge was built to accommodate fly fishing tourists in the 1930s. Just downstream, Rangitira No3 Block, Block XIV Tatua SD had been proclaimed Crown land in 1906. By 1935 part of it was set aside for camping. The majority of the block was leased to the Reid family who transformed the site from scrub into a small working farm. After the lease with the Reid Family expired, management returned back to the then Taupō County Council and the name "Reid's Farm" was informally used to describe the reserve since then. The camping area was formally subdivided from the larger Block in 1958 and given Recreation Reserve status. The Taupo District Council have administered the reserve since 1982.

3 VALUES

The site has important cultural, social, recreation and environmental values associated with it. These values have underpinned the development of the plan. These values are described in more detail as follows:

3.1 Community and Cultural Values

The reserve is of importance to the local community, including local hapū. There is a long history of association with the reserve by the people of the area. The reserve is owned and managed by the Taupo District Council for the community of the District and also those who visit the district.

Local hapū have been living in the area for hundreds of years, the Waikato river was an important transport route and there were settlements in the vicinity of the reserve.

The wider Taupō community have shown an active interest in the management of the reserve and value it for day use activities. A desire to reconnect with the reserve as a place for locals to use was expressed through the consultation process associated with the development of the plan.

The reserve is also within the community of people who reside along Huka Falls Road, and consideration of this community is also important when managing the reserve and activities on the reserve.

3.2 Recreation Values

The main recreation uses of the reserves are predominantly nature based / outdoor activities including launching kayaks by kayak groups, operators and clubs, picnicking, and camping. The proximity of the reserve to the Waikato River, scattered mature trees and open grassed areas make it valued by locals and visitors alike for more informal (i.e. opposed to organised sports etc.) uses.

Use of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve varies depending on the location. The vehicle and river access points, and pedestrian only areas enable different recreation uses of the reserve.

Current recreational and passive uses within Hipapatua Recreation Reserve include: scenic sightseeing; water activities including river access, kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding; seasonal freedom camping; swimming and picnicking and overnight camping. Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is currently the only freedom camping site near the Wairakei Tourist Park, and one of a suite of freedom camping sites in close proximity to Taupo Township.

3.3 Environmental Values

The reserve is situated along the Wairakei corridor on the banks of the upper Waikato River, and is part of an important ecological corridor that runs between Wairakei and Taupo. This corridor is created by the river and the vegetation on its margins.

The majority of the reserve is covered by regenerating native vegetation. There is, however, numerous exotic species present (including buddleia, blackberry and wilding pines) which dominate some parts of the reserve. The presence of this vegetation, and that on the opposing

bank give the reserve its natural qualities. The area has been identified in the Taupō district plan as an Amenity Landscape Area due to its high scenic and amenity value and its natural setting.

The importance of the quality of the water in the Waikato River is significant. That part of the Waikato river which bounds the reserve has relatively good water quality which adds to the visual amenity of the reserve. The management of the reserve can have implications on localised water quality and protecting the river from activities which can adversely affect this water quality is seen as important.

4 VISION FOR HIPAPATUA RECREATION RESERVE

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is a place that locals and visitors can be proud of and reflects the important cultural, community and environmental values which make the place special and unique.

The Hipapatua Recreation Reserve provides for a range of high quality and well managed outdoor nature based land and water recreation activities and river access experiences to locals and visitors.

Those people using the reserve, do so in a way that is safe, respectful and enjoyable, and leave with positive memorable experiences.

This vision has been developed to guide the management and use of the reserve. The vision represents a goal developed by the community of what, over time, the effective management of the reserve will lead to. The concept plan and policies have been developed with an aim to implement and achieve the vision.

5 CONCEPT PLAN FOR HIPAPATUA RECREATION RESERVE

The policies and implementation statements in this management plan provide the direction for the future of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve. The Concept Plan identifies the location for specific activities, assets and infrastructure to be located on the reserve.

Overnight camping should only occur in the locations specified on the concept plan.

The concept plan also identifies potential works, such as environmental restoration, new tracks and roads etc.

Figure 2: Hipapatua Recreation Reserve Concept Plan



6 RESERVE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Community and Cultural Values

Policy and Implementation

- i. The reserve is valued by the local community as an important place to visit and recreate.
- ii. The importance of the area to the local hapū should be recognised in decision making and the ongoing management of the reserve.
- iii. Opportunities for collaboration with local hapū and the wider community in management and operations should be facilitated.
- iv. The cultural values associated with the reserve should be protected and where possible enhanced.
- v. Taupō District Council will consider the effect of activities on neighbouring properties.

Explanation:

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is an area which is highly valued by the local community as a place that is used for a range of recreation pursuits. The reserve is also of importance to local hapū who have histories and associations with the land which go back to times prior to European settlement of the area. These values are important when considering the management and use of the reserve and also opportunities to involve the community in initiatives which will enhance the values of the reserve. Some activities could have an effect on neighboring properties. These effects should be considered however this should be done within the context of the statutory purpose of the land to be managed as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and as per the provisions in this plan.

6.2 Recreation Values

6.2.1 Recreation Use

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Taupō District Council will manage Hipapatua Recreation Reserve to maximise recreation opportunities that are consistent with the values and vision of the reserve.
- ii. Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is a place for outdoor nature based recreation activities that do not diminish the values of the reserve and are consistent with the vision of the reserve.
- iii. Taupō District Council will support opportunities to create stronger positive recreation linkages between the reserve and the surrounding area.
- iv. Taupō District Council will alert users to the risks associated with the Waikato River.

Explanation:

The primary purpose of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is to provide an opportunity for outdoor nature based recreation. Outdoor recreation activities take many forms and are defined in many ways. It is appropriate in this case to maintain and enhance the positive attributes of the area by allowing activities that do not detract from the important recreation, environmental

and community and cultural values of the reserve.

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve provides a unique opportunity for a natural outdoor experience adjacent to the Taupō urban area. In particular, it offers:

- easy access to the Waikato River for a range of water pursuits;
- a quiet natural area close to town suitable for a range of day use and overnight camping opportunities,
- a reserve connected to the Waikato River and other recreation assets, and
- contrast with nearby busy and highly modified areas (e.g. intensive tourism development on adjacent land).

These are the aspects of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve which this management plan intends to maintain. As such the types of recreation activities that are considered most appropriate are those that do not have detrimental effects on these features. Examples are:

- overnight stays using personal relocatable accommodation (such as tents and motor caravans etc.) located in designated camping areas;
- picnicking and relaxing;
- riverbank activities such as fishing (licensed);
- kayak/canoe use;
- walking and cycling
- nature appreciation; and
- free & accessible public day use.

The Waikato River in this location may not suited to some typical water-based, recreational activities due to the dangers of the fast-flowing river, the proximity of Huka Falls and the increased chances of accidental drowning of users unfamiliar with the specific river conditions. On site signage should be placed in the reserve to alert users of these risks.

6.2.2 Camping

Policy and Implementation

- i. Overnight camping is permitted at Hipapatua Recreation Reserve in Areas A and B of the reserve for a maximum stay of 3 nights in any 14 day period.
- ii. Area B will only be made available for overnight camping when Area A is full and Taupō District Council has placed onsite notification of its availability for overnight camping.
- iii. No overnight camping is permitted outside of Areas A and B.
- iv. Taupō District Council may impose a fee for overnight camping on the reserve. The amount of the fee will be determined by Taupō District Council and will assist in the maintenance and management of the reserve.
- v. Only relocatable accommodation such as tents, caravans, campervans, and house trucks will be permitted on the reserve. No permanent or semi-permanent structures will be permitted.
- vi. Any person(s) staying for more than 3 nights in any 14 day period will be asked by Taupō District Council or any authorised officer, to leave the reserve. Failure to leave the site may result in prosecution under the Reserves Act 1977 or an infringement notice under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

- vii. Any persons damaging the reserve, creating conflict with other users of the reserve or involved in antisocial behaviour may be asked to leave immediately.
- viii. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in prosecution under the Reserves Act 1977 or an infringement notice under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- ix. Taupō District Council may close parts or all of the reserve at any other time, for any duration, to overnight camping at the discretion in anticipation of any safety or management issues resulting from that activity.

Explanation:

This area has been used for many years by campers. It is seen as a small scale camping area providing the only opportunity close to Taupō for informal, low key, short term camping. Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is the only Council administered site offering an opportunity for a different type of camping experience close to Lake Taupō and the urban area.

Overnight camping is restricted to defined areas that are specifically serviced for that use. Overnight camping in the balance of the reserve is not permitted to allow the wider reserve to be used for day use.

Where overnight camping has resulted in damage to the grass and the wider reserve then overnight camping may need to be restricted to allow the damaged areas to recover.

A maximum timeframe for overnight stays at the reserve has been prescribed, and breaches of these timeframes will not be permitted. Those people using the reserve should do so in a way that is respectful and enjoyable and should be done so in a way that does not impinge on the enjoyment of others. Anti-social behavior or behavior that contravenes the policies of this plan will result in persons being asked to leave the reserve.

Council may review the timeframes identified in policy 6.2.2.i at any time if they consider that they are unduly restrictive or permissive.

6.2.3 Public Access & Reserve Closure

Policy and Implementation:

- i. The reserve will be accessible to the public.
- ii. Taupō District Council may if necessary close to the public, all or part of, the reserve for management purposes subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.
- iii. The reserve may be closed to overnight camping for protection of and remedial works to the reserve.

Explanation:

To make Hipapatua Recreation Reserve accessible to the public taking into account safety, natural values, capacity for use, the provisions of Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977, other Acts and Bylaws and any other restrictions necessary for the reserve's protection and management, and for the protection of the people using the reserve.

6.2.4 Events and Commercial Activities

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Taupō District Council will consider commercial and other organised formal events and activities in Hipapatua Recreation Reserve that are compatible with the provisions of this management plan, the Taupō District Plan, Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977 and any Bylaws.
- ii. Any application received by Taupō District Council for short term (six days or less) events will be assessed on its merits to determine its suitability and appropriateness to the reserve.
- iii. Taupō District Council will enforce a scale of fees for such applications. The amount of the fee will depend on the possible effects of the event, and the end use for any proceeds.
- iv. All applicants must demonstrate to Taupō District Council that the activity will not have any adverse effects on the reserve and its primary purpose, and that appropriate remediation processes are agreed prior to restore any damage to the reserve that may result from the activity
- v. Taupō District Council will only grant applications for commercial activities where evidence has been supplied demonstrating that the activity that will not adversely affect the values of the reserve and its primary purpose.
- vi. All applications will be subject to the provisions of Section 53 and 54 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- vii. A successful applicant for commercial activities will receive, from Taupō District Council, a license to occupy and will be charged an appropriate rental for the use of the reserve.

Explanation:

Applications are periodically received by Council from both commercial and non-commercial groups to hold events on reserves that are short term and one-off. To date Hipapatua Recreation Reserve has not been targeted by many groups for such use but it is anticipated that this may increase in the future.

Such an application may be viewed favorably so long as there were no adverse effects to the reserve and it is compatible with the main purposes and values of the reserve.

6.3 Environmental Values

6.3.1 Vegetation Management

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Non-native vegetation will gradually be removed from the reserve as resourcing allows.
- ii. All replanting will generally be of native vegetation and as indicated in the Concept Plan. Exotic species may be planted for a specific purpose such as food supply or erosion control, and if it is determined that an exotic species is more suitable for the planned use than an existing native species.
- iii. Pruning and extraction of vegetation shall have minimal effect on the reserve, and where appropriate provision shall be made for replacement planting restoration. Weed control will be undertaken where necessary to remove introduced species and promote the re-establishment of native vegetation.
- iv. Taupō District Council will work with local hapū, reserve users, business and the wider community to facilitate the environmental enhancement and restoration of those areas identified on the concept plan as being suitable for restoration activities.
- v. Taupō District Council will support opportunities to create stronger environmental linkages between the reserve and the wider Waikato River ecological corridor.
- vi. Any person(s) found damaging or removing plants from the reserves without authorisation may be asked to leave the reserve and face prosecution under Reserves Act 1977.

- vii. Vegetation will be managed in order to improve native biodiversity and environmental values, as well as to promote safety through creating visible areas. These will be prioritised depending on the location of vegetation within the park and the identified purpose for a specific area.
- viii. Areas of the reserve identified for overnight camping may be closed for that use to allow the area to recover.

Explanation:

A particular feature of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is the extent of the large mature trees and other vegetation. There are grassed areas but the areas of bush and trees are extensive, adding to the appeal of the area so close to an urban center. Vegetation which provides unsecure areas where visibility is largely obscured can also provide hiding locations for undesirable activities. In areas outside of vegetation restoration areas this can cause problems for the safety, security and welfare of users.

While native species will be prioritised, deciduous exotic species may be preferable in some locations, especially for picnicking, camping and lawn areas.

The existing large pine trees provide shelter and shade. However, they are shading key areas of the reserve and their removal would ensure a more efficient use of the reserve. As these species have a limited lifespan, particularly when compared to native species of a similar size, the presence of these pines present a health and safety risk to users and neighboring properties. The nature of the pine trees growth also inhibits the establishment of a significant understory to support native revegetation. They will be removed and replaced over time with native species appropriate to the area.

Further planting of native species will be done in some areas of the reserve as indicated on the Concept Plan.

Management of trees, bush and other vegetation on the reserve shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the Reserves Act 1977 and Noxious Plant Act 1978.

6.3.2 Wildlife Management

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Indigenous wildlife and wildlife habitat will be protected, and enhanced to an extent compatible with the reserve's primary purpose of recreation.
- ii. Indigenous plants to attract native bird and fauna shall be planted where practical to encourage native species of birds and fauna to the area.
- iii. Taupō District Council will work with local hapū, reserve users and the wider community to facilitate the establishment of animal pest control programmes which have an objective of enhancing the native plant and animal species on site.
- iv. Any person(s) found harming indigenous wildlife in the reserve may be asked to leave the reserve and face prosecution under Reserves Act 1977.

Explanation:

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is an important part of a wildlife corridor along the Waikato River. It is important that the desirable wildlife of Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is afforded some protection and that wildlife habitats are managed in a way to encourage indigenous wildlife to the area. Birds provide an attraction in this type of environment.

This section shall authorise anything with respect to fauna that would contravene the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or proclamation or notification under that Act.

6.3.3 Soil Conservation

Policy and Implementation

- i. Taupō District Council will manage Hipapatua Recreation Reserve in such a way as to minimise soil and river bank erosion.
- ii. Taupō District Council will close areas of the reserve in need of remedial works to the public.
- iii. Taupō District Council will manage access and vegetation along the riverbanks to minimise erosion and protect the river bank.
- iv. Revegetation and other necessary work will be undertaken at existing sites of erosion.
- v. Vegetation will be retained in areas prone to erosion.

Explanation:

Maintenance and planting of suitable vegetation and removal of unsuitable vegetation in order to secure the river banks may need to occur as required. Further planting may be undertaken to ensure greater protection of the banks. Some areas will be kept clear to ensure easy access to the river.

Access may need to be managed in some cases to protect the river banks and allow for the restoration of some areas.

6.3.4 Water Quality

Policy and Implementation

- i. Taupō District Council will manage the reserve in a way that does not result in any adverse effects on the water quality of the Waikato River.
- ii. Personal washing with any cleaning products (such as toothpaste, soap or shampoo) is strictly prohibited in the Waikato River or in any location which will allow the greywater from any such activity to enter the Waikato River.
- iii. Washing of clothes, dishes or any similar activity is strictly prohibited in the Waikato River, or in any location which will allow the greywater from any such activity to enter the Waikato River.

Explanation:

Water quality is important. No washing yourself, dishes, clothing or any other objects is allowed.

6.4 Asset and Infrastructure Management

6.4.1 Vehicles

Policy and Implementation

- i. Motorised vehicles will not be permitted off formed roads, parking areas and areas designated for overnight camping in the reserve identified on the concept plan.

- ii. Any person(s) found riding or driving a vehicle on the reserve in a manner which is considered in breach of any policy, dangerous or reckless shall, upon request of the Council or any authorised officer, immediately leave the reserve. Prosecution will be undertaken for significant offences.

Explanation:

Motor vehicles (including motorbikes) can have adverse effects on the reserve and on the experience and safety of visitors.

The location of roads and parking areas are specifically designated so that any activities compatible with the reserve and this plan, requiring vehicle use will be catered for.

6.4.2 Facilities

Policy and Implementation

- i. Taupō District Council will restrict facilities on the reserve to those types and locations identified on the Concept Plan necessary to protect the natural environment and to facilitate the use of the reserve for its primary purpose.
- ii. Taupō District Council may develop facilities additional to those identified in the Concept Plan where there is a specific and identified need which is not currently which would complement the primary recreation purpose of the reserve and is consistent with its vision.
- iii. Taupō District Council will permit facilities where there is a need to provide protection to the environment and ensure the safety and enjoyment of permitted recreation activities.
- iv. Any structures on the reserve will conform to the requirements of the Taupō District Plan, Building Act 1991 and Bylaws.
- v. The location, design, colours and materials of any structure will be in harmony with the natural environment.
- vi. No open fires will be permitted without the express written permission of Taupō District Council and unless a suitable permit is obtained.

Explanation:

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve is adjacent to the Waikato River and has relatively high natural and open space values. A large number of built structures are inappropriate and largely unnecessary on this reserve

However, there is usually an expectation by visitors for some basic facilities such as toilets, the availability of water, shelter, rubbish bins, tables, and walking tracks originating at the reserve.

6.4.3 Roads & Vehicle Parking

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Taupō District Council will provide and maintain roads and car parking to a level appropriate for the level of use that is necessary to accommodate the anticipated needs up to a level which the reserve can sustain without diminishing the reserve's outdoor recreation values.

- ii. Taupō District Council will rationalise existing roads to a minimum to allow access to the river and to recreation areas.
- iii. Taupō District Council will develop and maintain roads, indicated on the concept plan so as to prevent vehicles from leaving the formed road way and carparks.
- iv. Vehicle parking areas will be generally identified for each recreation area on the Concept Plan.

Explanation:

There are several rough informal roads presently providing access within Hipapatua Recreation Reserve. These need to be rationalised and developed to a level which minimises erosion and vehicle damage to the reserve. The Concept Plan identifies the location of these roads.

The roading system will be designed to restrict the access of vehicles to certain areas in the reserve, particularly in the area closest to the river. Larger vehicles such as house trucks and camper vans will be limited to the upper portion beside Huka Falls Road.

6.4.4 Signs & Information

Policy and Implementation:

- i. A minimal number of signs and structures will be erected to ensure that all visitors to the reserve are aware of:
 - a. the location of facilities;
 - b. the rules governing the area;
 - c. the values associated with the reserve, and
 - d. any hazards associated with the reserve.
- ii. The council will work with local iwi to put in place on the reserve sorry boards, signs and / or carvings that communicate in an appropriate manner, the important histories and cultural values of the reserve.
- iii. The wording on all signs erected on the reserve will be in both English and Te Reo Māori.
- iv. The design and placement of signs and information structures will be done in a way that considers the use and values of the reserve while still achieving its main purpose of conveying information to visitors.
- v. Signs will be placed adjacent to the Waikato River warning reserve users of the potential hazards associated with swimming in the river.
- vi. All signs must conform to the Taupō District Plan and will be authorised by Taupō District Council prior to being erected.

Explanation:

Signs are often necessary to help people understand the allowed uses and the layout of the reserve. Signs can be explanatory, regulatory, informative or interpretive. Signs should complement the reserves primary goals to enable easy wayfinding and management. Too many signs can be of a detriment to the visual amenity of a reserve, and the messages they contain can be diluted by having too many. Signs should also be complementary to each other and should not be of a large variety of different styles. In addition, signs should never be contradictory of each other, their messages should be clear, succinct and unambiguous.

6.5 Administration and Control

6.5.1 Administration & Control

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Taupō District Council will administer Hipapatua as a Recreation Reserve under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 and in accordance with this management plan and any other relevant Taupō District Council plans, policies or bylaws. Where the policies in this plan conflict with any other plan, policy or bylaw then the management plan policies will prevail unless specifically identified as overriding the management plan in the relevant plan, policy or bylaw.
- ii. Taupō District Council will not permit any activity or development contrary to the policies contained in this management plan.
- iii. Any significant change of objectives and policies will require a plan review as per the process set out in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- iv. Taupō District Council will take enforcement action under the Reserves Act 1977 against any party breaching the policies outlined in this management plan

Explanation

Hipapatua Recreation Reserve has been gazetted as recreation reserve under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. The reserve is vested in the Taupō District Council. Policy decisions are made by the Council following advice from staff.

6.5.2 Dogs and other Animals

Policy and Implementation:

- i. Dogs will be permitted in Hipapatua Recreation Reserve so long as they are under full control at all times.
- ii. Dog owners will clean up after their dogs. Anybody responsible for the dog(s) and failing to do this may be prosecuted.
- iii. Where dogs are found roaming free, owners may be prosecuted.
- iv. No domesticated animals (with the exception of dogs) or livestock will be permitted on the reserve without the express permission of Taupō District Council.
- v. No pest animals are to be released on or from the reserve.
- vi. Taupō District Council may set aside areas of the reserve as on-leash, off-leash or no dogs permitted.

Explanation:

Dogs are often companions, considered as part of the family, or they provide enhanced abilities for those who require it. However when they are not suitably controlled, at best they cause a nuisance to park users, and at worst are a danger to park users and other dogs. If they are well cared for and under control of a responsible person these problems can be offset.

6.5.3 Vandalism

Policy and implementation:

- i. Taupō District Council may lay charges against any person found undertaking a material offence against the reserve.

Explanation:

The Council may bring a prosecution against anyone found undertaking a material offence on the reserve as defined in Section 94 of the Reserves Act 1977 or in the Parks and Reserve Bylaws. This includes the felling of trees on the reserve and damage to any other vegetation or structure including fences, signs, locks and gates.

6.5.4 Fees & Charges

Policy and Implementation

- i. There will be no fee charged to members of the public using Hipapatua Recreation Reserve during the day on an informal basis.
- ii. Taupō District Council may charge fees, subject to the provisions of Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977, to commercial and non-commercial users of the reserve undertaking specific activities on the reserve.
- iii. Taupō District Council may charge fees for commercial use of the reserve and (to a lesser extent) non-commercial use. The amount of the fee charged will be determined by Council.
- iv. Taupō District Council may impose a fee for overnight camping to cover the costs of maintaining and managing the reserve.

Explanation:

The Council may require a fee from groups (commercial or non-commercial) using the reserve for the activities involving exclusive use of a site for a particular event which excludes the general public. These groups will in turn be able to charge their members or clients.

The fees by the Council will be set at the time of their application for the activity. All applications will be subject to the provisions of this management plan, the Taupō District Plan and the Reserves Act 1977.

This policy does not in any way allow for full scale commercial accommodation on the reserve.

A fee for overnight camping may be levied against those staying at the reserve overnight.