Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua

Draft Toitū Kāpiti

Kāpiti Coast Open Space Strategy

Recreation | Conservation | Identity

For Public Consultation 19 October - 19 November 2021

A growing network of Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways traverses the landscapes of the Kapiti Coast.

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Toitū Kāpiti – Kāpiti Coast Open Space Strategy

Recreation | Conservation | Identity

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Open space categories

- **A** Districtwide and Destination parks
- **B** Sport and recreation
- **C** Iwi practices and sites
- **D** Heritage
- **E** Neighbourhood parks
- **F** Nature reserves
- **G** Outdoor adventure
- **H** Recreation & ecological linkages
- **I** Urban public space

Paekākāriki

Paraparaumu

Waikanae

Ōtaki

Guiding principles

KAUPAPA Values

HUANGA Objectives

TIKANGA Approaches

WHAKAPAPA :: WAIRUA
MANA :: MĀRAMATANGA
TE AO TUROA :: MAURI

Trends & aspirations

- Iwi partnership
- Climate change adaptation
- Mauri & sustainable environments
- Accessibility
- Technology
- Identity
- Urban design
- Crime prevention through environmental design

Top ten priorities

1. **Protecting, restoring, connecting and enhancing** the natural environment
2. **Supporting connectivity** across open spaces
3. **Involving iwi** at partnership level in planning and management
4. Designing and developing **multifunctional open spaces** that are accessible to all
5. Helping **reduce the effects of climate change**
6. Proactively working towards **addressing any related issues** as the district grows
7. Achieving **high levels of community engagement** and a sustainable volunteer programme
8. **Actively promoting and educating** locals and visitors
9. Actively **supporting Kāpiti's diverse communities** and practices
10. **Collating, creating and sharing knowledge** for future decision making

Our vision

Toitū Kāpiti

Connecting the community with a vibrant, diverse, thriving and interconnected open space network, enhancing the mauri of both.

The purpose of this strategy is to safeguard and guide the provision of open spaces for the next 30 years, to ensure the right open spaces are provided in the right places for new generations to enjoy and cherish.

Message from tāngata whenua

PLACEHOLDER for completion in future versions of this document - Whatungarongaro te tāngata toitū te whenua As man disappears from sight, the land remains

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Message from the Mayor

We all know that being able to get outside and into nature is nourishing for mind, body and spirit.

Open spaces make it possible for a range of important activities to happen, from playing sport to travelling around the district to supporting biodiversity and significant ecological sites. Our natural environment gives us all a sense of breathing space.

Having such a rich environment is one of the things that draws people to the coast. And increasingly more people are coming to share in this place. So we need to protect and preserve our open spaces for current and future generations, and for this reason I am pleased to see this Open Space Strategy released for consultation.

It has been developed in partnership with the community, iwi and stakeholders including private landholders, and integrates the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The strategy is necessarily future focused. Given our recent and projected growth, the future impacts of climate change and the technological shifts we're seeing and which will continue to change the way people behave (think e-bikes for example), it is important we take a long-term view and set some goals that we can work towards now.

We envisage a Kāpiti where a healthy environment and healthy people live in harmony. We envisage our youth continuing to play a leadership role and as kaitiaki of our ecosystems, and the wider community continuing to volunteer its efforts.

We see a future where the knowledge and practices of mana whenua are supported by native plants and taonga species. We see our waters – our ecological lifeblood – protected and enhanced. And we see a future where our people and environment are connected and symbiotic.

This Open Space Strategy provides the overarching vision to help us achieve these goals and ensure the future Kāpiti will have is even better than it is today. It's a job for all of us, and as Council we are committed to leading this work.

K Gurunathan
Mayor

1. Vision

Kāpiti has a vibrant, diverse, thriving and interconnected open space network, that supports the connection of the community to the environment, enhancing the mauri* of both.

*mauri "...life principle, life force, vital essence, special nature, a material symbol of a life principle... the essential quality or vitality of a being or entity." — Te Aka Māori-English, English-Māori Dictionary

More about the Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai meaning of mauri can be found in Whakarongotai o te moana, Whakarongotai o te wā: Kaitiakitanga Plan for Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai.

Kāpiti's expansive coastal environment are integral to the identity and wellbeing of the local community.

What is Open Space?

Open space includes areas of land or water that the public can access either physically or visually. It supports freedom of movement, and opportunities to connect with one another and the environment. Open space includes green spaces such as parks, reserves, transport corridors, urban spaces, streetscapes, greenbelt areas and streams.

What is the Open Space Strategy and why is it important?

Our ideas of open space have evolved with the urbanisation of our cities and towns. Our ancestors were once surrounded by land in a largely undeveloped natural state, allowing them to explore, learn and enjoy the environment. These open spaces supported the wellbeing and livelihood of communities. While the basics haven't changed, over time populations have increased, towns have developed, and open space has gone into either private or public ownership through subdivision and land sale. Contemporary open spaces are often public parks, nature reserves, beaches, and town squares.

Different open space types provide a range of experiences, opportunities and connections to the land, known as open space values. These exist in both public and private land. While access to privately owned land may be limited, it can still contribute to the open spaces network, offering landscape amenity, ecological richness, and cultural and heritage features. Public and private land (with agreements) can be understood as a network, and the more connected it is, the more effectively it meets the needs of a growing community.

An effective and accessible network of open space connects people and wildlife, and balances a range of diverse experiences across the district. Open spaces support recreation, sport, active transport, iwi values, ecological linkages, and provide cemeteries. They also play a role in supporting landscape and visual character values, protecting significant landscapes and the identities of sites and villages, and contributing to the character and vibrancy of the area.

Through our visitor opinion surveys we know that access to open space is a defining characteristic of the Kāpiti Coast District, and one that is deeply treasured by our community. Without our open spaces, our communities would have limited opportunities to enjoy nature, participate in recreation activities, connect with others, and bury loved ones.

Population growth and development creates additional demand for open spaces, and we need to plan to continue to provide the right amount of quality open space.

This Open Space Strategy safeguards and guides the provision of open space for the next 30 years, to ensure the right open spaces are provided in the right places for future generations to enjoy and cherish. It sets the direction for providing and managing the network until 2050, giving a framework for growth, while remaining flexible to respond to challenges and opportunities that arise.

Successful implementation of the strategy will ensure our open spaces meet the needs of Kāpiti's current and future residents, visitors, open space providers, iwi, Council, public land managers and developers. It will pro-actively help protect and enhance the intrinsic environmental values of our open spaces.

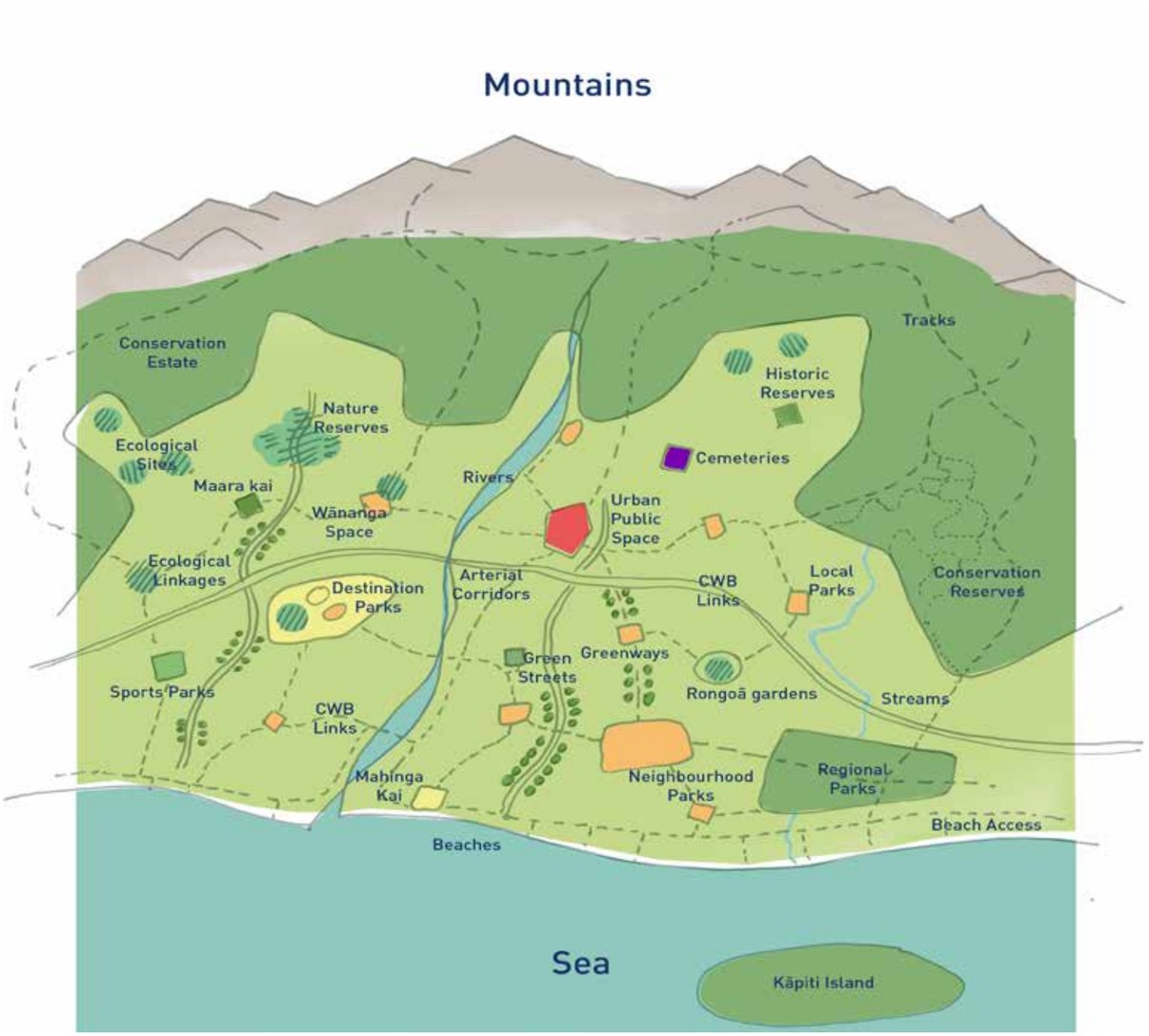


Figure 1: representation of current and future open space types in Kāpiti

This Strategy is intended to provide guidance but remain flexible to the changing needs in Kāpiti over the next 30 years. If significant changes are needed, the strategy will be reviewed and updated, at the appropriate time in consultation with the community.

Places and pathways, people and nature

Figure 1 represents the various individual types of open space on the Kāpiti Coast, these are grouped into nine overarching categories and defined through this Strategy. Together they contribute to a cohesive and connected network. This is a schematic representation, not a detailed map of the district. For a scale map of open space distribution, see Part 3; for more detail on the open space network by township, see the diagrams in Part 5.

The nine open space categories are discussed in detail in Part 4. These categories are based on a classification developed by Recreation Aotearoa (the professional body for recreation in Aotearoa, New Zealand) with some variation to better align with iwi and our local community.

Working in partnership

This Strategy outlines our vision for the Kāpiti Coast District, and how the Council could connect agencies, iwi partners, and private landowners to achieve this vision for 2050. It provides a framework to effectively deliver aspects of the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019, which requires local authorities to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing for their communities, following a sustainable development approach.

The Strategy focuses on Council-administered land. Other public open space, not owned by Council, such as land owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), is also considered, but Council can only directly apply the strategy's principles to open spaces under its jurisdiction. However, providing a landscape scale vision for Kāpiti's open spaces, regardless of ownership or management, helps to define future capacity and plan for the future. It also shows what is possible with an integrated approach to open space provision. This reinforces the need for coordination and collaboration across agencies to achieve the vision of the strategy.

Mana whenua

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are integral to the direction of this strategy. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the founding document of Aotearoa, and guarantees the tino rangatiratanga of mana whenua over the land, waterways and all other taonga. A Tiriti approach to decision-making ensures equal recognition and protection of mana whenua and government, and input from both partners.

The Council's iwi partners are Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga. This strategy has been developed in collaboration with mana whenua, using a kaupapa Māori planning framework, to place this partnership at the centre of Kāpiti's open spaces strategy and provision. Council will continue to partner with iwi on the implementation of the strategy, including developing an action plan.

While this strategy largely addresses the physical open space across Kāpiti, the spiritual connection between tāngata (people) and whenua (the land) has been carefully considered and integrated, acknowledging the key role open space plays in nourishing and supporting the holistic wellbeing of people. Section 3 outlines the six key values (kaupapa) and the associated objectives (huanga) and approaches (tikanga) to achieve this.

Privately owned land

Open space differs from other types of land in that people can access it legally, even though there may be restrictions on what they can do there. This means the Kāpiti Coast's open space network can consist of both public land, and private land where access is enabled. Where this strategy refers to accessible open space on private land, this is supported by an agreement with the landowner and not imposed or implied.

Private land may also have open space values, such as ecologically significant sites with valuable biodiversity, or landscape and visual character, which are also recognised in the District Plan.

Conversely publicly owned spaces may also have restricted access under private agreement, such as public land leased for grazing. These areas are also considered part of the open spaces network, and are shown in this strategy.

Ensuring this strategy is in line with Council's wider strategic direction is vital to its success, and the future of our open spaces network.

Strategic connections

The Open Space Strategy aligns with Council's vision, outlined in the Long-term Plan 2018–38 – "Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai, toitū te tāngata, toitū Kāpiti! – Thriving environment, vibrant economy, strong communities, the lifestyle of choice."

Toitū means to be sustainable; for Council this means the need to protect and improve the wellbeing of land and water to create an environment able to sustain, support and nourish our communities.

The Long-term Plan (LTP) vision captures a drive for a vibrant and thriving Kāpiti, while aspiring to have strong, safe communities and a deep connection to the natural environment.

Strategy outcomes

- Upholding the values of, and commitment to, Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Providing direction to protect and restore our environment for future generations.
- Providing safe places and spaces that enhance social opportunities and community cohesion.
- Developing a well-connected network (enhancing active transport and ecological connections).
- Establishing criteria for decisions on the protection, acquisition, development and management of open space.
- Supporting economic development within Kāpiti.
- Telling the Kāpiti story.
- Aligning our open space outcomes with Council's LTP vision, community outcomes, and strategies and policies both active and in development

Our Top Ten

The growth of the network will be informed by ten priorities. These top ten priorities will guide our management of the network and inform implementation plans developed in conjunction with Iwi.

1. Continuing protection, restoration, connection and enhancement of the natural environment, including the restoration of the ecology and biodiversity of the District and the remediation of contamination in open spaces.
2. Enhancing connections across our open space network, including improving cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) routes and ecological corridors.
3. Planning and managing our open space network following a partnership approach, to ensure iwi values are expressed throughout Kāpiti's open space network.
4. Designing and developing a network that enhances use and visitor experience, and maximises efficiencies. This includes designing a network for all ethnicities, ages and abilities that has multiple functions (where possible), and ensuring open spaces are affordable and compatible with their surrounding environments.
5. Mitigating the effects of climate change through the management and development of the open space network.
6. Ensuring Kāpiti residents have adequate and equitable access to open space now and in the future. This includes working closely with developers, the community and other agencies as our district grows.
7. Involving the community through best practice community engagement, and enriching the network through a sustainable volunteer programme.
8. Actively promoting our open space network to encourage enduring connections to the whenua and supporting community identity. This will include environmental education, encouraging responsible use, events and attracting visitors to Kāpiti.
9. Providing diverse open space types to support a good quality of life, the wellbeing of Kāpiti's communities and the health of the natural environment.
10. Collating, creating and sharing of knowledge to inform future decision-making.

Note: these priorities are not stated in order of importance but are numbered for reference purposes.

A partnership approach to open space planning.

2. Kaupapa Values Huanga Objectives Tikanga Approaches

The open space network supports major events such as the Ōtaki Kite Festival.

Values, Objectives and Approaches

Our Open Space Strategy places close connections between people and the environment at the heart of everything we do. Iwi believe people descended from gods who govern specific realms of the environment. With this in mind, the strategy has been developed in partnership with iwi, using a kaupapa Māori planning framework to articulate the kaupapa (values), huanga (objectives) and tikanga (approaches) adopted.

The kaupapa fundamental to the strategy are:

Whakapapa – our genealogy and connection to each other, past generations, future generations, and the environment.

Wairua – the aspect of wellbeing that reflects the connection between the mental, emotional, psychological and spiritual human conditions and the physical and non-physical aspects of the environment.

Mana – the security and authority held by whānau, hapū and iwi because of their status as mana whenua and their Te Tiriti o Waitangi right to tino rangatiratanga of taonga. The Treaty granted local government kāwanatanga, and local government and iwi work together to achieve Treaty partnership.

Māramatanga – the knowledge created over generations of observation and interaction with the environment. This knowledge guides decision-making.

Te Ao Tūroa – the world of natural order, balance and pattern that connects the elements of the environment, and the understanding that environmental components cannot be viewed in isolation.

Mauri – the essential energy required for all life. It is a systemic quality that speaks to the quality of processes and systems as opposed to individuals.

These six kaupapa reflect a broad spectrum of values, from the tangible values of ecology and biology, through to the more abstract values of connectivity, energy and spirituality.

The tikanga (approaches) in this section are discussed in no particular order. The implementation of the tikanga will be developed through a separate implementation plan. As this is a 30-year guidance document, the outcomes and approaches will take place over that period; the huanga (objectives) and tikanga (approaches) outlined have been shaped by the current challenges highlighted in Appendix 4.

Whakapapa

Kaupapa – Values

Whakapapa is the network of genealogical and ecological connections in the natural world. We gain our sense of identity in the world by understanding these connections and our position in the network. Kāpiti Coast District Council is part of a lineage of public land managers that includes the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). The best outcomes can be achieved by working to connect people and the natural world.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Kāpiti communities are able to maintain and strengthen lifestyles that provide regular contact with nature. Opportunities are provided to connect visitors and residents to open space, and to the historical significance of the landscape and its features.
B. Cemetery planning enables future burials, and these are in environments that are peaceful and safe.
C. Open space management promotes pride, expansion and use of open spaces as appropriate.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Prioritise accessibility to land to benefit human and ecological connectivity where possible.
2. Connect urban residents to green environments and corridors.
3. Facilitate landowner partnerships to achieve the district's open space vision and build the network (i.e., cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) connectivity and , areas of shortfall).
4. Engage with different sectors of our community to better understand how they could connect with the whenua (land). For example, explore ways of connecting youth to open space through engagement with schools.
5. Work with mana whenua to identify appropriate sites to encourage connections, including through regeneration of sites of significance and plants/species that support traditional practices.
6. Support local employment in environmental work for the community and mana whenua through initiatives such as the Government's current Jobs for Nature programme.
7. Provide access to areas that support traditional customary practices such as rongoā and mahinga kai.
8. Provide interpretive/historical signage throughout the open space network, and interactive learning opportunities where appropriate.
9. Increase awareness and improve experiences of heritage sites across Kāpiti.
10. Plan cemeteries appropriately to cater for the needs and demands of the growing district.
11. Ensure closed (full) cemeteries complement the open space network as places to visit and commemorate loved ones and value Kāpiti's heritage.
12. Work with relevant stakeholders and Council teams to identify parks suitable for appropriate commercial activity.

Wairua

Kaupapa – Values

Wairua is the non-physical wellbeing of people and environment, highlighting the critical connection between people and the environment to support the wellbeing of both. The open space network supports social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing, and is key to Council's role in delivering on the Government's Living Standards Framework.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Open spaces are safe and accessible (location, physical access and affordability) for our community and visitors.
B. Open spaces offer a range of attractive recreation and leisure opportunities for all.
C. Open space environments support healthy wairua of the people; they are harmonious and pristine.
D. Where open spaces require protection, the appropriate protections are in place.
E. Cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) linkages connect the open spaces and provide a means of experiencing the interconnected landscape.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Improve access to open space for all ages and abilities.
2. Establish effective wayfinding and signage across and between open spaces.
3. Ensure the design and development of open spaces reflects best practice crime prevention through environmental design principles (CPTED).
4. Provide open space areas and assets for a range of community recreation and leisure activities, including mahinga kai and physical activity.
5. Consider protection of significant iwi sites that support wairua, and involve iwi in the managing those sites.
6. Increase awareness of the benefits of open spaces for wellbeing, such as the health and social benefits.
7. Monitor and adapt open space types and provision where possible to meet the needs and demands of our community.
8. Build relationships with our community, iwi and hapū to develop incentives and initiatives to get people out and enjoying open spaces.
9. Continue to provide assets that are appropriate for the built and natural environment, and the intended community use.
10. Develop projects that support pristine, contamination-free environments.
11. Understand where Kāpiti's open space network needs use or protection mechanisms, and work towards getting these mechanisms in place.
12. Ensure the CWB network is well signed, attractive, safe, seen as a drawcard to Kāpiti, and can be easily accessed by visitors and residents.
13. Promote good and safe CWB linkages appropriate gradients, lighting, access points and surfacing.
14. Improve education on the use of shared spaces.

Mana

Kaupapa – Values

For iwi, mana is the basis of kaitiakitanga and the role of mana whenua in environmental decision-making. Mana is also reflected through manaakitanga, which includes a sense of pride in one's ability to host and take care of others. As a Territorial Authority, the Council is a Treaty partner with iwi, and decision-maker for areas of the open space network under its management. Through a sustained and respectful partnership, the mana of our partners and community will be sustained and enhanced.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Work collaboratively with iwi partners, community and stakeholders to achieve the vision, kaupapa, huanga and tikanga of the strategy.
B. Establish and communicate standards of care and maintenance for open spaces to ensure they are cherished, valued, and a source of pride for the people of Kāpiti.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Work with community groups to support continued participation, provide education opportunities and engagement.
2. Explore co-management opportunities and key projects (either in partnership or iwi led) to reflect mana whenua values. These should be supported where possible with appropriate resourcing.
3. Ensure iwi values are a key driver in reserve management plans as they are developed and reviewed.
4. Ensure iwi partners are involved in determining the priority of projects, evaluating acquisition of open space land, and future reviews of the strategy.
5. Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver key projects.
6. Explore partnerships with clubs, schools and other agencies to increase the use of and access to open space areas and facilities.
7. Work closely across Council teams to support understanding and implementation of the Open Space Strategy.
8. Ensure assets are managed in a planned and proactive way, ideally integrated with other agencies' planning.
9. Create a place residents feel proud to live in and come back to.
10. Ensure the open spaces network features as part of the visitor offering.
11. Explore opportunities for Kāpiti to host local, regional and national sports competitions.
12. Ensure appropriate sports field maintenance for the level of sport and active recreation being played.
13. Ensure facilities provided in parks, reserves and trails are appropriate for the level and type of use.
14. Consider a district-wide play strategy that ensures appropriate play provision for our community.

Māramatanga

Kaupapa – Values

Māramatanga is the body of environmental knowledge created over generations, and transferred to each new generation to understand, test and add to. Māramatanga provides us with important insight into the function and health of the environment. For Council, deep knowledge of the open space network can be enhanced through effective engagement, monitoring, information sharing and the skill and commitment of our officers.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Open space planning uses the knowledge systems created by those who have gone before us, contributing to these systems for the benefit of future generations.
B. Ensure open space trends and changes are identified and monitored to suit Kāpiti's needs.
C. Ensure iwi knowledge informs decision-making, and Council has a role in sustaining and sharing that knowledge.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Ensure asset information is recorded and available to future generations to understand why and how assets are provided to communities.
2. Appropriately monitor the performance of open spaces over the duration of the strategy.
3. Help developers align their future plans with Council's future plans to meet the needs of the community, identifying shortfalls in open space provision across Kāpiti.
4. Remain up to date on, and provide for, technology changes such as new modes of transport on CWB tracks, including micro mobility.
5. Monitor and adapt to changing trends in sport.
6. Collaborate with other agencies and iwi when making decisions on asset development. Consider developing a framework to support this.
7. Support kaitiaki monitoring of open space projects.
8. Identify and protect mahinga kai areas.
9. Provide spaces for wānanga to support the collation, creation and sharing of mātauranga Māori.
10. Improve education on using shared spaces, so all ages and abilities can enjoy them together where possible; for example, shared paths for different modes of transport such as e-bikes and horses.

Te Ao Tūroa

Kaupapa – Values

Te Ao Tūroa is the natural order of the universe, bringing balance to the world. Examples include phenomena such as migration of fish and bird species, movement of the sun across the horizon, and the changing of phases of the moon. Te Ao Tūroa is an understanding that environmental components cannot be viewed in isolation from one another.

Natural processes shape our lives and communities over time. For example, many urban areas of the Kāpiti Coast are on land formed by interactions between ocean currents, Kāpiti Island and sediment movement.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Adopt management approaches to maintain and enhance natural processes, order and balance.
B. Good environmental practices (including earthworks design and placement of structures) will conserve and enhance natural character and amenity values.
C. Good environmental planning will balance the aspirations and needs of people, and those of the open space environment.
D. Provide for climate change mitigation within open space management.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Respect the natural environment and the forces that shape it. Adapt to and work with these forces.
2. Where changes are observed to the natural character of an environment (through monitoring under māramatanga), adopt adaptive management to respond to those changes.
3. Conserve and enhance the open spaces natural character across the network through appropriate landscape development.
4. Consider native and taonga species that support traditional customary practices such as maara kai, mahinga kai and rongoā when considering sites for revegetation, especially where these are in areas of specific cultural significance.
5. Carry out ongoing dune and riparian restoration.
6. Maintain areas with prominent natural character, to support the stories of the Kāpiti Coast and its people.
7. Ensure assets are managed, and appropriate levels of funding are available to ensure appropriate replacement at the end of their useful life.
8. Carry out all long-term planning with climate change effects in mind, collaborating within Council and across stakeholders.
9. Observe rāhui or other tikanga Māori where appropriate to protect the environment and people from climate change effects.
10. Undertake vulnerability assessments to understand the levels of risk of providing future open for growth and existential changes such as natural hazards and climate change.
11. Provide appropriate shade cover plantings across open spaces to positively respond to climate change and allow users of open space to be shaded from the sun.
12. Explore incorporating low carbon design into open space assets, and implement where possible.
13. Where appropriate, balance Council's stormwater management with environmental and recreational enhancements through green infrastructure design.
14. Actively work on plans for climate change mitigation and resilience.

Mauri

Kaupapa – Values

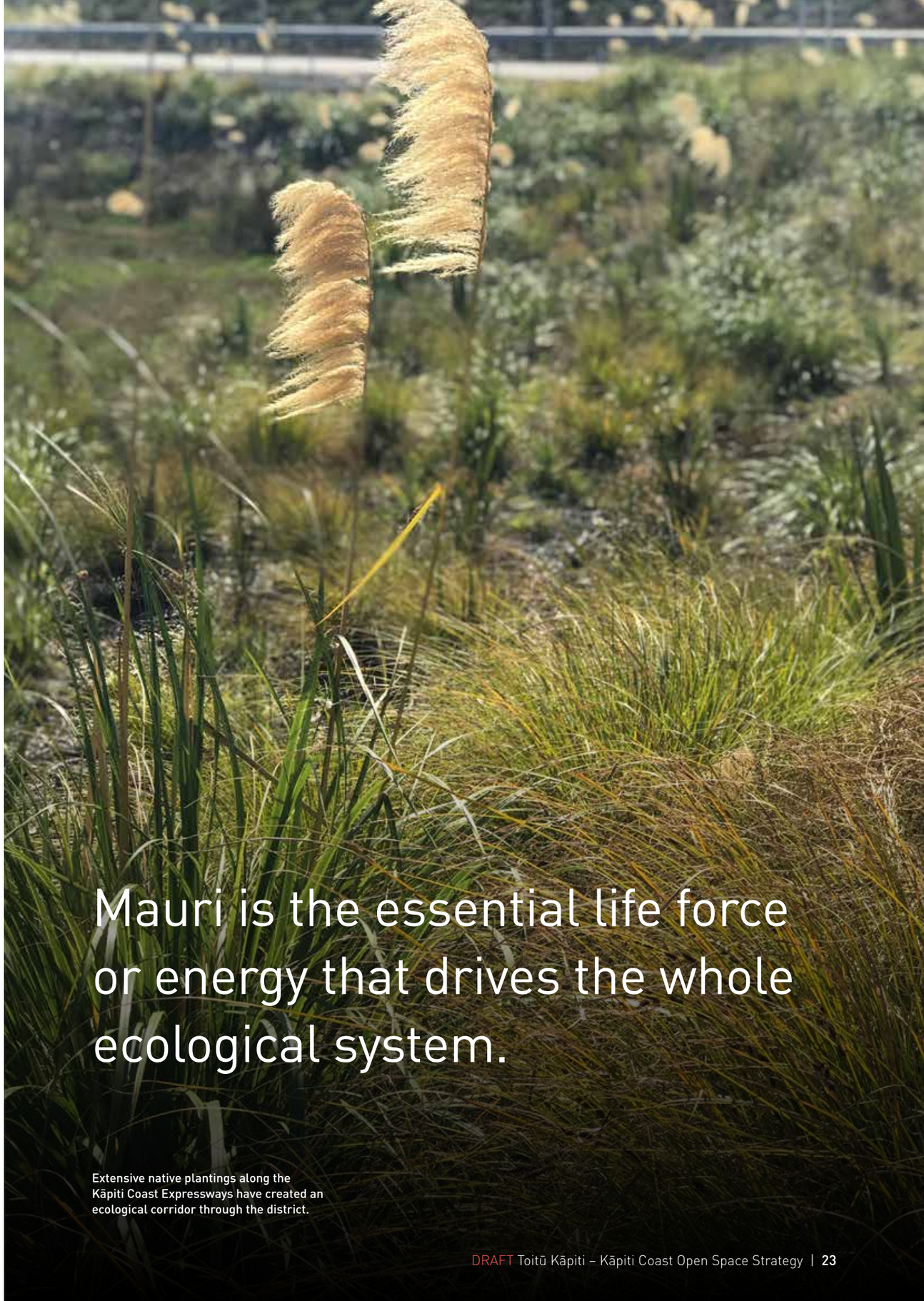
Mauri is the essential life force or energy that drives a whole ecological system. Mauri relates to the quality of processes and systems, rather than individuals. The mauri of the environment can be seen through the health and quality of parts of the environment and the functioning of systems as a whole. Along with providing habitat to support local ecosystems, the open space network is central to the quality of life in Kāpiti's communities.

Huanga – Objectives

A. Council, iwi partners, and the community work collaboratively to ensure the environment is enriched and healthy, as indicated by healthy mauri.
B. Focus on key environmental impacts and how these can be reduced or eliminated to improve biodiversity in water and on land.

Tikanga – Approaches

1. Introduce effective pest eradication methods across the open spaces network.
2. Identify alternative agrichemical spray methods.
3. Integrate first-class waste minimisation techniques into open space management, targeting zero waste.
4. Continue to work towards stormwater not negatively affecting water quality in rivers and wetlands. This will require a close relationship with GWRC.
5. Address contamination of open space land, including identifying all selected land use register contaminated land (SLUR) and those to which the hazardous activities and industries list (HAIL) may apply.
6. Work with iwi partners to develop kaitiaki monitoring projects to assess the mauri of open space environments.
7. Actively engage in projects such as Waikanae Ki uta ki tai to enhance the natural character, amenity, biodiversity connectivity and overall mauri of open space and the environment.
8. Work with other agencies to integrate iwi values into catchment management plans.
9. Improve public education and awareness of human impact issues on the environment.
10. Address freedom camping impacts on the environment across Kāpiti.



Mauri is the essential life force or energy that drives the whole ecological system.

Extensive native plantings along the Kāpiti Coast Expressways have created an ecological corridor through the district.

Kāpiti is increasingly seen as a lifstyle choice for young families.

3. District Profile

Current view

Open spaces provide a vast array of functions and touch on many different facets of life on the Kāpiti Coast. In this section we provide an overview of the existing open space provision and a thematic assessment of current conditions, future trends and aspirations.

The Kāpiti Coast is named after Kāpiti Island and stretches 40 kilometres along the coast, from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki. The district extends from the mountains to the sea, including both hill country and a coastal plain. Extensive beaches and sand dunes (many now under urban development) extend along the coast, interspersed with rivers and streams that originate in mountain catchments.

Using Yardstick (a national benchmarking tool for open space), we can compare the Kāpiti Coast District Council's open space provision with that of other Territorial Authorities (TAs) in New Zealand.

Council has direct management responsibility for 590.6 hectares of open space in Kāpiti (excluding the beach). There are 11 hectares of Council reserves per 1,000 residents, somewhat below the national benchmark of 15.9 hectares. It's important to note though that the Kāpiti Coast includes extensive open space areas managed by other agencies such as Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and the Department of Conservation (DOC). Including all land managers, there is a total of 34,792.15 hectares in the Kāpiti Coast, resulting in an impressive 648 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Figure 2 : Location of the Kāpiti Coast District, connecting the Tararuas to the Cook Strait

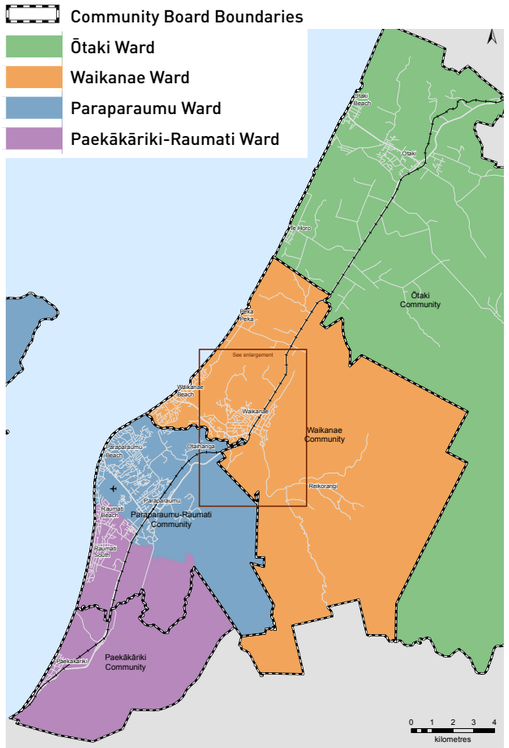


Figure 3 : Kāpiti Coast ward boundaries 2021.

While this may seem that ample open space already exists, the Council's main role in open space provision is at a neighbourhood scale, in an urban context, with easy access to open space close to residential dwellings being a key focus.

There are currently four community wards in Kāpiti, shown in **Figure 4**. At a ward level there is an uneven distribution of Council open spaces across the district. **Figure 3** highlights the provision by ward, and illustrates some current trends in distribution. The difference in overall open space distribution can be explained by the large DOC or GWRC parks in some wards.

Iwi values are woven through all open space types, but there are also certain open space sites that specifically provide for iwi practices. Data about the extent of iwi practices and sites in the open space network is limited, as there is no active mapping or monitoring to capture this information at this time.

Ward	KCDC open space (ha)	DoC open space (ha)	GWRC open space (ha)	Total open space network (ha)
Ōtaki	67.54	25,031.51	916.89	26,015.94
Waikanae	233.25	3,264.72	244.23	3,742.20
Paraparaumu-Raumati	273.07	2,057.85	388.32	2,719.24
Paekākāriki	16.79	641.02	1,656.95	2,314.76
Total	**590.66**	**30,995.10**	**3,206.39**	**34,792.15**

Figure 4 : Total public open space provision by agency.

Open space category	Area of open space owned/managed by Council (ha)	Area owned/managed by Council (ha/1000 residents)	Comparison with other New Zealand councils (ha/1000 residents)
Districtwide/destination park	121.5	2.48	not measured
- Public gardens	0	0	0.4
Sport and recreation	68	1.3	1.8
Iwi practice and sites	unknown	unknown	not measured
Heritage	13.3	0.27	0.45
Neighbourhood parks	53.8	1	0.8
Nature reserves	296	5.5	7.2
Outdoor adventure	0	0	3.8
Recreation and ecological linkages	64.78	1.32	2.8
Urban public space	0.71	0.01	not measured

Figure 5 : Open space provision by type. For more detail on open space types refer to Part 4.

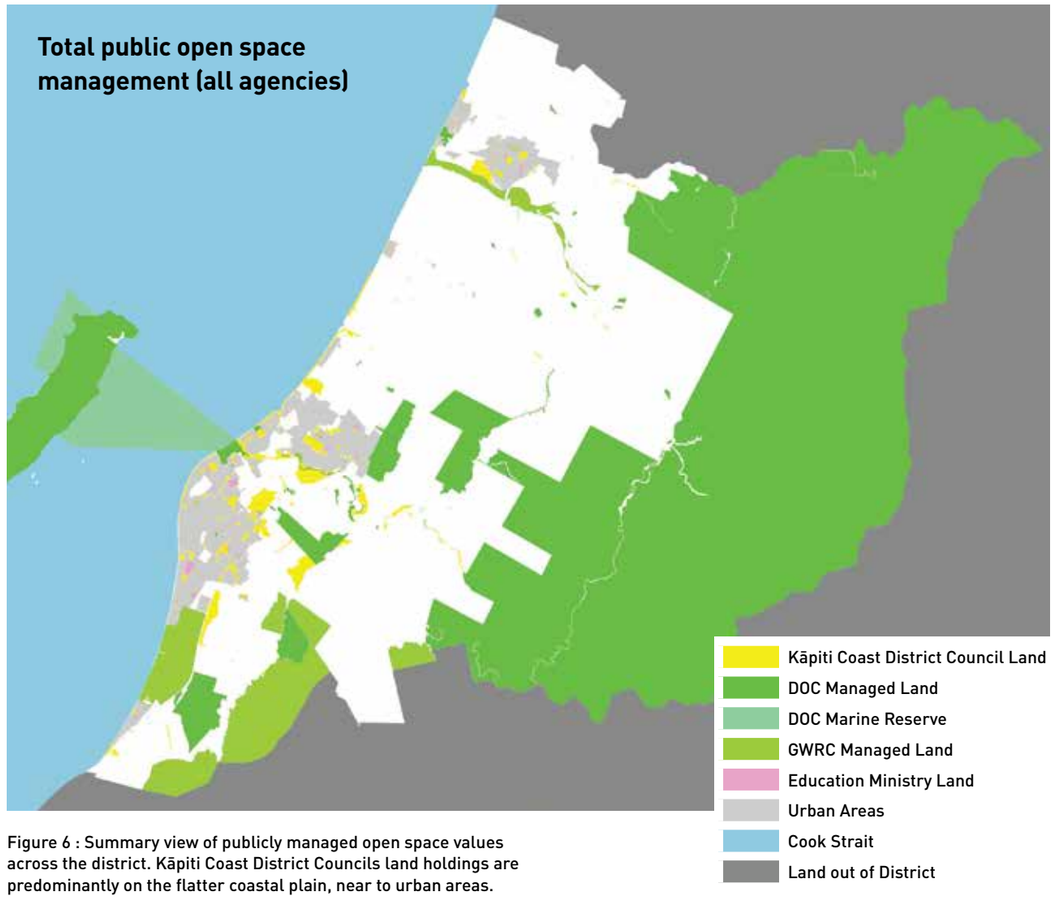


Figure 6 : Summary view of publicly managed open space values across the district. Kāpiti Coast District Councils land holdings are predominantly on the flatter coastal plain, near to urban areas.

Future view

This strategy provides principles to guide flexible open space development that can be adapted as changes occur. There are currently a number of broad-scale influences in open space design, function and management practice:

Climate change

Climate change and mass biodiversity extinction are global issues with the potential to drive major shifts in open space management. Kāpiti faces significant environmental challenges from our changing climate. In coastal areas, rising sea and groundwater levels are an issue, while in the hill country erosion and sedimentation present challenges. While there is still uncertainty about how significant these changes will be and how quickly they will happen, we know it is crucial our Kāpiti community starts planning for the future.

As a growing district, we need to balance urban development with the preservation, enhancement and connectivity of natural areas. Decisions involving open space will need to be made with climate change front of mind, for example considering sustainable solutions, sustainable design and development location. Open space can support resilience and contribute to climate change mitigation through methods such as slope stabilisation using revegetation. This will continue to support natural environments to improve biodiversity and sequester carbon. Our understanding of climate change

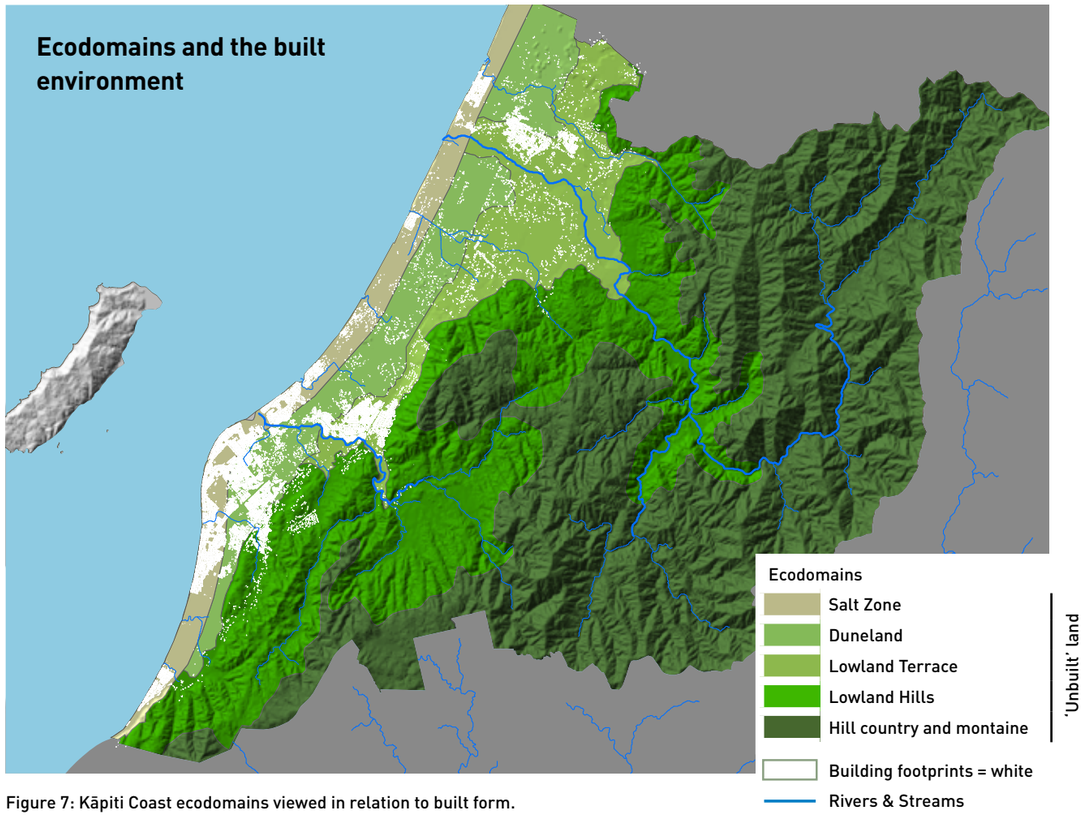


Figure 7: Kāpiti Coast ecodomains viewed in relation to built form.

threats continues to evolve, so this strategy needs to be flexible to ensure the right decisions can be made for our communities and environment as our understanding develops.

Ecological values

The concept of 'ecodomains' provides a useful reference to illustrate how ecological and biodiversity values may inform future open space partnership, management and land acquisition.

The Kāpiti Coast can be broadly classified as having six terrestrial ecological domains (**Figure 7**) from the mountains to the sea. Due to their individual characteristics each ecodomain has historically supported urban development to a greater or lesser degree. The relative flatness of the dunelands for example, and the desirability of the coastal living environment has meant that these areas have seen a great deal of development pressure, particularly in the south of the district. The lowland terrace areas, with more fertile soils are less intensively 'built', and are often the focus of productive farming and horticultural activity. Meanwhile, the topographic characteristics of the lowland hills, hill country and montaine ecodomains mean these areas have very little built development, but they may have experienced some deforestation, grazing, plantation forestry or erosions altering these domains and their downstream catchments. **Figure 7** shows the district's ecodomains in relation to the distribution of buildings and structures in the district.

Figure 8 provides a high level view of the potential to enhance ecological connectivity to support and preserve biodiversity values through the implementation of this Strategy. The District Plan 2021 identifies and provides protection for 239 ecological sites of varying scale across the district. While the majority of these are on privately owned land and are not publicly accessible, they are vital to support open space values by providing important habitat for native plants and animals and a seed source for revegetation projects across the district.

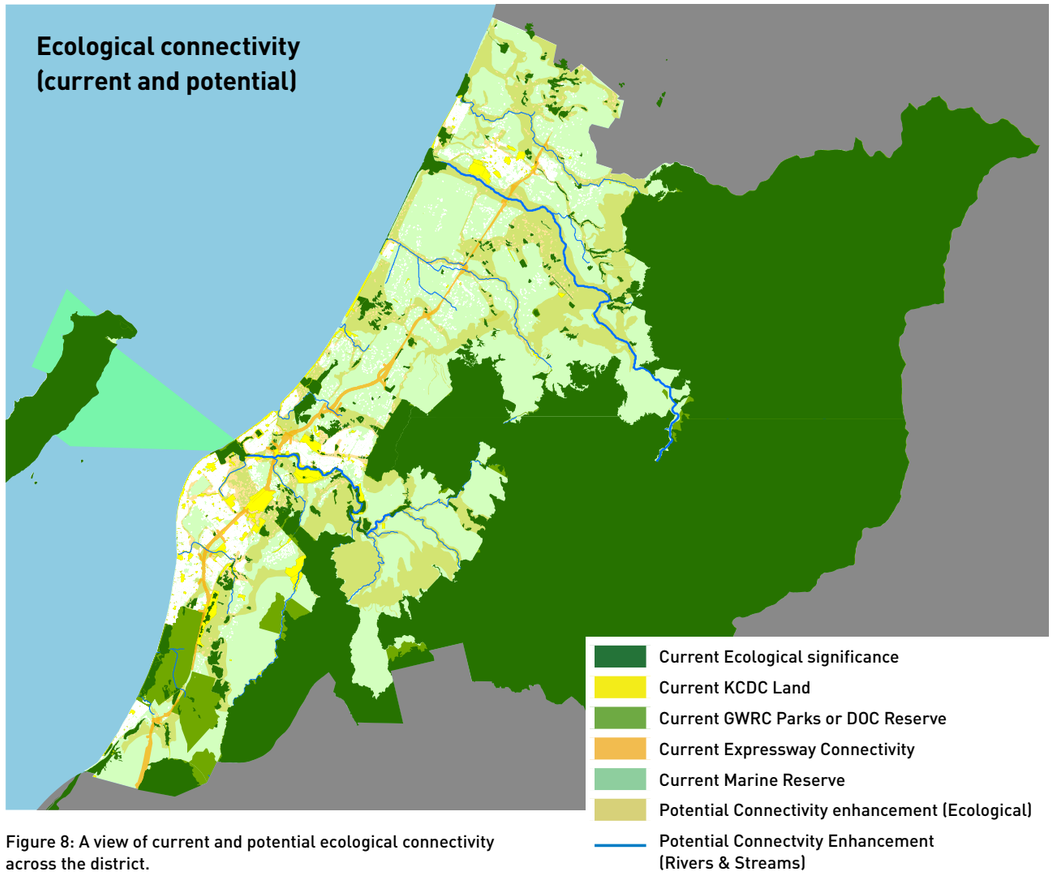


Figure 8: A view of current and potential ecological connectivity across the district.

Through the implementation of this Strategy there is potential for the further restoration and buffering of waterways to improve connectivity for people and wildlife.

The construction of the M2PP and PP2O expressways and their extensive native plantings has also provided a continuous north-south vegetation corridor through the district. Council managed land is shown in yellow and where possible it's is associated with the areas identified for connectivity improvement. The Kāpiti Island Marine Reserve (DOC) is also shown providing a continuous link to Kāpiti Island.

Technology

Technology is advancing at a rapid rate, and it's impossible to predict how it will affect our lives in 2050. Recent technological advances have changed the way the open spaces are used and imagined. Over the last decade there has been a surge in availability of e-bikes, smartphones, drones and electric scooters. These inventions have challenged and changed the ways open spaces are used, designed, managed, shared and enjoyed, as new norms around the use of these technologies in open spaces evolve. This strategy needs to be flexible to preserve Open Space values in the face of technological change, balancing innovation with traditional values such as recreation, relaxation, wairua, and time in nature. Technological advances will also present efficient ways of monitoring open spaces to ensure they are performing according to the community's needs.

Population growth and demographics

Kāpiti has been growing steadily for the last 30 years, and is set to continue to grow. The current estimated district population of 57,000 is projected to grow to approximately 86,548 by 2050.

Further growth is expected to see the demographic makeup of the district change, with families and younger people set to increase, alongside a significant increase in the proportion of the population over 65 years of age. It is anticipated that this change will also see an increase in smaller household sizes, contributing to the 12,072 additional dwellings projected to meet growth to 2050.

There is often a relationship between demographics and the open space needs of the community. For example, a trend toward smaller household sizes may be coupled with a shift to physically smaller housing units, smaller yard areas, and increased demand for quality public open spaces as a result. Trends in ethnic distribution across the district at a ward level may vary the open space needs of some areas, to provide culturally relevant facilities that support these communities. Meanwhile, a prevalence in residents who commute out of Kāpiti for work also creates nuances in open space usage, engagement and expectation.

The recently published National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) requires councils to provide well-functioning urban environments that can meet current and future development needs by managing growth both "up and out". This is both through intensification of existing urban centres, and through new development at the urban fringe where development capacity resulting from intensification is not enough to meet projected demand. The Wellington Regional Growth Framework (WRGF) provides a spatial vision for managing future growth across the wider Wellington region. Together, the NPS-UD and WRGF support intensification of existing urban areas along with good public transport, higher densities and better public transport connection of new greenfield areas. A review of Kāpiti Coast's own District Growth Strategy is also under way, which will help identify where and how future growth is provided for across the district. This strategy provides important context for these, and a cohesive and connected open space foundation.

Pandemic

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck, having an immediate impact globally. These events have had an impact on the international tourism industry, which may be felt for some time. At the time of writing international travel is still restricted. However, as this strategy is a long-term vision, the ambitions set through it are anticipated to endure through the current restrictions. Observations on how the pandemic elevated the significance of the open space network in the public perception, particularly during Level 3 and 4 restrictions when people were limited to their local areas, have also been factored into the strategy.

Kāpiti Island is a destination in it's own right and central to the Open Space network of the District.

Looking ahead

Kāpiti's existing and future open space network

The remainder of this section discusses the issues, opportunities and trends in the Kāpiti Coast's existing open space network, and provides a response, approach and/or aspiration to provide direction for the future open space network.

The development of this strategy involved numerous phases of engagement with iwi partners, the community and key stakeholders (such as developers and other landowners), to ensure a diverse representation of the district was captured. The section that follows reflects this along with statistical information and strategic alignment, and is considered against the mana whenua values outlined in the Part 2. This section demonstrates how the open space types are connected to one another; that is, particular issues and opportunities may occur across a number of open space types.

As discussed previously the strategy's nine open space categories are:

- **A. Districtwide/destination park**
- **B. Sport and recreation**
- **C. Iwi practices and sites**
- **D. Heritage**
- **E. Neighbourhood parks**
- **F. Nature reserves**
- **G. Outdoor adventure**
- **H. Recreation and ecological linkages**
- **I. Urban public space**

The Kāpiti Coast District Council is very clear that collaboration with iwi partners, the community and stakeholders is essential to achieve the district's open space network aspirations.

The following table is arranged in no particular order.

Trends and aspirations for levels of service

Iwi partnership

Integral to our open space planning and management is collaboration with mana whenua to give expression to iwi values.

Aspirational actions

- Encourage and incorporate mahinga kai, maara kai, rongoā into our open spaces.
- Support and provide urupā as required.
- Support sport with high iwi participation rate through improved/increased infrastructure.
- Give expression to mātauranga Māori through signage, art, te reo Māori etc.
- Protect waahi tapu sites.
- Support marae through providing open spaces for maara, hāngi pit, and rongoā etc.
- Support native flora and fauna through planting, care and maintenance.
- Protect and enhance waterbodies.
- Provide access to important sites.
- Carry out kaitiaki monitoring, ensuring our open spaces are looked after.
- Make history and heritage accessible through storytelling.

Climate change adaptation

The network of open spaces can contribute to Council's climate change response and goal to be carbon neutral by 2025. Council will set standards for how acquired open space can be developed and managed in a way that contributes to carbon neutrality by incorporating sustainable practices and design into open spaces to mitigate climate change effects and improve resilience.

Aspirational actions

- Emphasis on carbon capture through planting and restoration.
- Energy efficient technology such as solar panels and LED lighting used in open spaces.
- Water conservation and rainwater harvesting for reuse in reserves.
- Consider embodied energy and whole of life costs for materials for open space physical assets and materials.
- Undertake energy supply and water supply vulnerability assessments to inform asset planning.
- Green infrastructure and climate change resilience projects, including those with a social focus.

Mauri and sustainable environments

Across open spaces, consideration will be given to environmental maintenance, and sustainability and enhancement practices.

Aspirational actions

- Keep open spaces free from contaminants and reduce agrichemical spray use in reserves.
- Support green transport modes.
- Use low-impact urban drainage design (LIUDD).
- Choose sustainable materials for our parks' assets.
- Choose turf species to reduce water use.
- Emphasise restoration planting to improve habitat and water quality.
- Implement waste minimisation measures.

Accessibility

We will plan for and deliver an open space network that is suitable for people of all ages and abilities to enable access, equity and inclusion in our open spaces. Everyone should be able to easily enjoy open space.

Aspirational actions

- Ensure signage is appropriate for visually impaired.
- Provide wheelchair/mobility aid access to open spaces.
- Provide audio maps through a phone-based app.
- Provide web-based trail mapping tools for navigation and interpretation.
- Provide play equipment for all ages and abilities.
- Provide accessible facilities including car parks, toilets and drinking fountains.
- Minimise kerbs for ease of access.
- Use appropriate surface treatments and paving types.

Technology

We need to adjust to changing technology needs, and embrace technology in our open spaces to enhance experiences and bring people together. We need to recognise the potential for technological innovation to rapidly change the way open spaces are used.

Aspirational actions

- Investigate and implement smart mapping technology to support wayfinding and landscape interpretation.
- Support renewable technology through provision of solar-powered charging stations for devices such as e-bikes.
- Consider solar-powered and renewable technology during design and specification of parks assets.
- Use water-saving technologies such as auto irrigation.
- Support newer modes of transport, such as e-bikes and e-scooters, through the provision of appropriate paths, charging stations, signage and guidance.
- Provide a framework for the operation and use of drone technology in open spaces.

Identity

It's important to express the Kāpiti Coast identity through artwork and designs that tell Kāpiti stories, including in open spaces.

Aspirational actions

- Install sculptures, murals, and other artwork in our open spaces.
- Undertake place-based landscape and architectural design that identifies and respects the surroundings and its history.
- Use native and endemic plant species to support biodiversity outcomes.
- Incorporate exotic species as appropriate to support heritage, diversity and experience outcomes.
- Use locally sourced plants and materials whenever possible.
- Provide quality on site and online interpretation material for the District's open spaces.

Urban design

Council's commitment to the New Zealand Design Protocol means we support quality urban design outcomes that deliver on context, character, choice, connections, creativity, custodianship and collaboration.

The local character of the Kāpiti Coast will be developed and enhanced with design undertaken in relation to local context.

Aspirational actions

- Support our town centres as enjoyable places for people to socialise.
- Provide choices and support diversity through a range of open space types.
- Continually work to expand and improve the connectivity of the open space network.
- Provide support for creativity and innovation in open space development.
- Support kaitiakitanga.
- Work alongside local communities and neighbourhoods in a place-based way.
- Recognise the role of open space in delivering on the Four Wellbeings.

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)

Incorporating the CPTED approach to reduce crime through environmental and urban design will create safe and secure open spaces.

Aspirational actions

- Install lighting in appropriate locations.
- Appropriate planting of vegetation.
- Good site design.
- Spatial planning of assets.

Now *and* In the future

Treaty settlement processes

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Kāpiti Coast's three iwi are at different stages of Treaty settlements (Ngāti Toa Rangatira have settled; Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga not yet settled); Council seeks to work in partnership with iwi to support open space values regardless of those stages.	Future Treaty settlements could result in open space land being returned to iwi, presenting further opportunities to collaborate on implementing open space values.

Tangata whenua values

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Despite iwi values being woven throughout open space, there is still limited opportunity for expression of tangata whenua values across our open spaces network. Mana whenua currently have little involvement in the overall management of open spaces, especially iwi sites. There is a desire to improve this, so that appropriate expression can be given to the values of the land, and this can be improved on over time with effective monitoring and adaptive improvement practices.	Mana whenua maintain strong relationships to the taiao, reflected through thriving mahinga kai, maara kai, rongoā gardens and sites that support iwi practices such as wānanga. There are numerous sites throughout the Kāpiti Coast, protected from contamination, supported by signage infrastructure and easily accessible to a variety of iwi members.
Te reo is minimal across the open spaces network; 111 parks out of 127 do not have bilingual signage. Iwi practices and sites are not clearly signposted or supported by infrastructure.	Kāpiti will be a bilingual district with te reo signage incorporated throughout the open space network. Ongoing collaboration with mana whenua will ensure sites of particular iwi significance are given appropriate acknowledgement, protection and access. For example, sites where spiritual practices are undertaken, or waahi tapu.
There is little focus on the protection and enhancement historical iwi sites. In most cases this is because of lack of awareness or resource, rather than negligence.	Council works closely with iwi partners to protect and enhance historical iwi sites such as waahi tapu and urupā. Areas of historical significance to iwi may require an archaeological assessment through Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and could require registration on the Heritage Register, which ensures protection.
Council eco-sources plants for restoration planting, and has two sites for rongoa planting.	Native plants and taonga species that support mana whenua traditional practices are seen in locations that best enhance biodiversity values for the Kāpiti Coast. This is achieved by practices such as eco-sourcing seed to promote local indigenous native plant growth.

Climate change

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
In 2019 the Council declared a climate change emergency. The open spaces network has a role to help mitigate climate change effects, as the Council's Parks and Open Spaces activity contributes to many open spaces and vegetation that sequesters carbon. Therefore, the Council considers maintenance practices and infrastructure that contribute to reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 requires the government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaption, and the Council will need to respond to these. The Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2025.	The environment continues to improve quality of life for residents and provide healthy habitats for flora and fauna to thrive. Council is committed to restoring, protecting and enhancing open space and, in doing so, to support the Council's climate change emergency response by mitigating climate change impacts. Newly planted areas, as well as mature trees and wetlands, contribute to increased carbon sequestration, which are high sequesters of carbon. Council demonstrates strong and effective leadership on climate change and meets its statutory obligations. Sustainability, resilience and climate change related work is integrated across Council. The promotion and subsequent increased use of cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) links help reduce carbon emissions and enable a more efficient transportation network, due to offsetting increased traffic and associated congestion. This also aligns with the district's Sustainable Transport Strategy.
As a coastal district, Kāpiti faces significant environmental challenges from our changing climate and associated rising sea and groundwater levels. Natural hazard risks such as earthquakes and landslides also exist. Climate change is likely to make some areas more prone to coastal hazards and may make them unsuitable for activities which are currently taking place.	Reserves and CWB links near the coast continue to be carefully considered from a design perspective, particularly regarding risk of erosion or sea-level rise. Reserve Management Plans and projects acknowledge these risks and impacts from natural hazards, and facilities will be located and designed accordingly. This strategy informs the Takutai Kāpiti project and Stormwater Strategy. The outcomes of the Takutai Kāpiti project will be reviewed and open spaces natural hazard risks considered in light of these strategies. Risk areas are identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan.
Weather conditions are expected to become more extreme for New Zealand, with an increase in droughts. Water conservation will need to be considered in the future to cater for drought periods and cater for continued provision of sports fields.	Decision-making considers climate change effects, allowing an integrated approach to managing these effects on recreational sites and in urban areas. For example, design elements such as soakage pits, swales or rain gardens may be used. Climate change responses are integrated across the Parks and Open Spaces work programme.

Biodiversity and ecosystems

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Council works closely with iwi partners, community groups and agencies to support biodiversity outcomes. Waikanae ki Uta ki Tai is an iwi and inter-agency partnership for the Waikanae River Catchment.	In addition to work on Council's own land, Council continues to offer support to private landowners and environmental community groups to protect and restore natural environments. Where appropriate, protection mechanisms such as covenants are encouraged. To preserve biodiversity and ecological values, significant ecological sites may not always publically accessible. Where nature reserves allow public access, low-impact activities such as CWB will continue to be provided as appropriate.
Pest plants, animals and diseases are becoming prevalent, and lead to degradation of habitat and endemic species populations. This trend could be exacerbated by climate change. Community volunteers play a significant role in supporting biodiversity restoration activities across Kāpiti.	Within its means, Council continues the control of pest plants and diseases through its biodiversity programme and open space management. This could be ramped up through the Government's Jobs for Nature programme, which are in development at the time of writing. Council provides support for community groups to participate in environmental restoration work.
The district's 296 ha of nature reserve land is distributed through regional parks, nature reserves, neighbourhood parks and green streets. Council is working towards greater ecological connectivity between open spaces, which will improve biodiversity habitats. Greater connectivity is also helpful for recreational purposes. Currently, 95 parks of 128 surveyed through the strategy process do not have ecological/recreation connections to other parks. This is an area for improvement across the open space network.	Connected networks of open space have more value than isolated areas, as they are more accessible and provide wider opportunities both for ecology and recreation. A connected network preserves landscape coherency, softens the impact of hard structure development, enhances biodiversity, helps define village identity, increases community resilience to natural hazards and global shocks, and provides alternative links between communities. For example, planting by the CWB links softens hard structure development, makes the trails more attractive, provides shade for users, and provides a connection for biodiversity. Existing ecological sites are connected, to strengthen the ability of biodiversity to move throughout Kāpiti. This includes urban public spaces and corridors.

Biodiversity and ecosystems – continued

	Council continues to improve ecological connectivity to prevent biodiversity from being isolated, increasing habitat and population numbers. Ecological connectivity is improved providing diverse connected habitats. Where development opportunities impact areas of potential ecological enhancement, careful consideration is given, for example, a waterway or areas of open space connecting two ecological sites.
The District has a significant number of volunteer groups that help support restoration projects. There are many active and very effective restoration groups on the coast, many operating on a voluntary capacity. Some groups have signalled an aging membership and a desire to broaden their membership base to include younger participants.	There is training and employment through the Jobs for Nature programme, and more educational and promotional programmes to improve and sustain intergenerational involvement in environmental restoration programmes. Council considers a mentoring scheme to encourage young people into environmental roles.
Dune restoration efforts involving pest plant and animal control and revegetation with native sand binding species have shown good success in many areas.	Dune restoration and management is monitored and appropriately resourced to support healthy and resilient coastal ecosystems.

Access to open space

Now	In the future
	Will influence:
Some of the district's public open space requires access through private land, and there are informal agreements with landowners on some trails. As private land ownership changes there is a risk that without formal agreements access will be discontinued, reducing or ending access to public open space for residents and visitors to the district.	Access to strategic pieces of open space on or via private land is formalised (with voluntary engagement and agreement of the landowner) to help achieve Kāpiti's open space vision, for the benefit of current and future generations and the environment. Council facilitates the agreement process, ensuring clarity of land purpose and use, especially as private ownership changes over time.
As seen in Figure 6, distribution of open space is uneven across the district, with some wards having more than others. This difference is often due to large regional and national forest parks located in some wards, for example, Queen Elizabeth Park in Paekākāriki. Most of Kāpiti's settlements and communities are located beyond reasonable walking distance of regional and national open space areas.	In urban areas, it's important everyone has access to open space close to their home (see Part 4 for appropriate levels of service, such as neighbourhood park within 400 metres in residential areas). In areas of urban intensification this may be through increased levels of service. Kāpiti residents living in rural communities are often surrounded by the visual amenity of the rural landscape but this is often not publicly accessible. Having access to one local park per rural community brings communities together, providing for a range of activities such as passive and active recreation and social interaction. Council works with different communities and sectors to ensure there are appropriate resources and services to suit their needs.
Some open spaces across Kāpiti are on road reserve, which is a risk.	While these areas can support good open space outcomes on a temporary basis open space on designated road reserve will not be considered as part of the open space network for the purposes of overall open space space provision due to the long-term risk or occupancy not being assured.
Open space is one of the many reasons residents decide to live in Kāpiti. Consultation during the development of the strategy identified that: → 67% of respondents were satisfied with the district's open spaces. → 20% described their favourite park or open space in Kāpiti as 'wild', 'natural' and 'unspoiled'. → 74% visit the Kāpiti's natural areas and trails. → 80% use open space to walk. → 52% do beach activities.	Open spaces are protected and preserved, which maintains Kāpiti's natural identity and relaxed lifestyle values. Areas with prominent natural character help tell the 'Kāpiti story'. This includes beaches, naturally beautiful areas, rural landscapes, and historical areas of significance.

Growth

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
With population growth comes residential expansion, which threatens natural open spaces close to residential areas, and can limit ecological connectivity.	Open space continues to provide many functions and benefits such as connecting people, relaxation, stimulation and connectedness to the environment. Careful planning and network growth are essential to achieving Kāpiti's open space vision and preserving and enhancing what the district has.
Kāpiti has a number of nationally significant roading infrastructure assets. At the time of writing, some of those are under construction (Transmission Gully and the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway) and one is complete (Mackays to Peka Peka Expressway). These roading infrastructure assets are considered part of the open space network. The expressways have altered land patterns, access and recreational and ecological connectivity, and have increased road accessibility in the region. The infrastructure brings visitors to Kāpiti, and provides a popular shared pathway the length of the district.	Planning acknowledges the role these nationally significant roading assets play in open space provision, and especially the CWB network. It is important we ensure continued involvement in the planning stages of the large infrastructure developments.

Cycleways, walkways and bridleways (CWB)

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Kāpiti has a lot to offer visitors, and many pass through unaware of this offering. Open space opportunities need to be maximised as visitor attractions. Kāpiti's identity is strongly focused on the beach environment, but there are many other aspects of Kāpiti's open space that could be promoted, such as the 81 kilometres of CWB network, the Te Araroa trail and Kāpiti's landscape and views. A survey completed for this strategy found that 27 of 127 open spaces have good views (majority towards the coast, others towards hills and rivers). The CWB network also offers horse riding, which is a unique component not considered by many other councils. Council's 81 kilometres of CWB tracks is an important network, providing residents with a safe, active and sustainable transport option. The tracks are strategically linked to provide a safe active transport option for residents to travel to townships, schools, community facilities, other destinations, and open spaces, avoiding the busy expressway that splits the district. This reduces safety concerns, and increases the number of residents walking and cycling to school or work. Additional links to meet need and demand will improve connectivity and enhance experience for users. During the development of this strategy 67% of residents stated that they were satisfied with Kāpiti's CWB network and 58% used it frequently.	CWB links provide a tourism drawcard, supporting the experience of the district's scenic bush, rivers, beaches and more. For example, horse-riding linkages are unique in Kāpiti and provide a tourism opportunity. Kāpiti also has the Te Araroa trail. Council continues to promote this and other open spaces within the district, and ensure appropriate facilities are provided for increased tourism demand. These networks benefit the district by enhancing wellbeing, providing a recreational experience, drawing visitors to the region, and reducing carbon emissions. Strategic links identified by Council improve connectivity and enhance experience; these depend on voluntary discussions with private landowners. Kāpiti is well served by an increasingly connected network of cycleways, walkways and bridleways; as subdivisions and developments grow in the district, and as new open space areas and local purpose reserves are created, it is important that this network is expanded and enhanced to meet future needs. New developments plan to connect with existing trails and footpaths, town centres, community facilities and reserves, where possible, to increase recreational opportunities and connectivity to destinations that people want or need to go. These connections provide the majority of residents with an active commuting option to travel to and from school, work, community facilities and destinations safely. The following links continue to enhance recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to Kāpiti: → Recreational routes are predominantly off road (on road is out of scope for this strategy). → Pedestrian and walking routes are both within and outside of the roading corridor, and cater to people with disabilities and limited mobility. → Horse-riding routes will continue to share CWB trails with other recreational users and functions where it is safe and practical to do so. → Consideration of other transport options for example, e-scooters.

Universal access and amenity

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Accessibility around the district is an issue for the disabled and elderly; this needs to be addressed, as Kāpiti is expecting an increased numbers of older people in the future. Council's 2013 Positive Ageing Strategy includes an objective to provide infrastructure and services that allow safe and easy movement of ageing people throughout the district. Council's Sustainability Transport Strategy outlines the need to better suit the needs of older people in Kāpiti, as older people are increasingly able to remain mobile as a result of changing technologies such as mobility scooters.	An open spaces guidance document with design criteria is developed, to ensure all ages and abilities of the community can use the CWB network to move safely and easily around Kāpiti; this is especially valuable as our population ages. Facility development design along the CWB links is carefully considered, in particular for the large increase of 60–85+ year old residents (for example, CPTED, appropriate gradients, appropriate lighting, access points and surfacing) to ensure accessibility for all ages and abilities will be multi-purpose. The CWB network considers a variety of transport modes such as mountain bikes, e-scooters, e-bikes, mobility scooters and skateboards.
Many types of open space are multi-purpose, such as active recreation sites, sports fields and CWB trails. This can cause tension between user groups (for example, cyclists and dog walkers). Occasionally, some users can be incompatible resulting in conflicts. Inconsistent wayfinding signage and educational signage across the network can create confusion around etiquette and expectations for shared facilities.	Council continues to promote and provide a wide range of open space types to suit the ever-changing needs and demands of our communities. Open spaces are multi-purpose, providing for a range of different functions (including active recreation), and sites are future proofed. Multi-purpose sites remain important as they bring different ages, abilities, experiences and communities together. Multi-purpose sites also ensure open spaces are used effectively. For example, multi-purpose trails (CWB) provide for a variety of recreational opportunities and a larger selection of routes for cyclists, walkers and horse riders, rather than having separate trails for separate modes. Compatibility of users in shared spaces is considered in future provision planning to ensure it is best managed to create a positive experience for all users. Signage and other educational methods educate users on caution, rules and courtesy, to eliminate tension between different user groups. For example, education promotes the many benefits of travelling on a CWB pathway. Signage improves wayfinding and overall knowledge of the open space and CWB network. There is a consistent approach to signage and wayfinding across all public space providers, to help people easily find and appropriately use open space, as supported by the Regional Trails Strategy

Universal access and amenity – continued

Of the 127 park environments surveyed during the strategy development, 78 are planted with good structure and healthy trees. Minimal open spaces provided good shade cover and 16 parks out of 127 had no trees at all.

Only three (6%) of the Council's playgrounds have shade structures, however it's estimated that 10% of Council's playgrounds have natural shade provided by trees.

Tree planting across all open space types has increased shade and sun protection for visitors and residents. A key focus is to provide natural shade in close proximity to play equipment.

Organised sports

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Nationally and regionally there are changing needs and competing demand for park areas, especially organised sports. Formal recreation is constantly changing, with some codes experiencing decline while others are increasing. This trend is consistent with what is being experienced in Kāpiti. Football, netball and tennis are currently experiencing increasing popularity in the district. Informal recreation trends are also increasing, such as 'pay and play' sports, due to minimal commitment required.	Council works with other agencies across the region to ensure sports field provision allows appropriate playing hours, and facilities are available to cater to the needs of our community. Trends in organised sport, emerging sports, demographics and social constructs continue to be monitored, and the network responds to these changes. Competitive and formal recreation brings communities, friends and families together. Programmes and facilities that support participation and ensure universal and equitable access to recreation and sports codes for all ages and abilities, including for less privileged or low socio-economic communities, are encouraged by Council.
Otaraua Park is a 60-hectare site that is to become a multi-purpose sport and recreation facility, purchased for future provision. Once developed, it will be a sport and recreation destination for the district that can host large-scale regional events of regional and potentially national significance. Yardstick (2020) provides a national median guideline of 1.8 hectares of sports park per 1,000 residents. In 2020 Kāpiti sat under this guideline, with 1.3 hectares of sports park per 1,000 residents. However, these figures do not include the future development of Otaraua Park development, which will ensure the district's future needs are met.	The development of additional sports fields and facilities provides additional capacity in response to growth. Other existing facilities may also be upgraded to support increased use. Sportsgrounds continue to be of good quality, distributed appropriately across the district, and developed to the appropriate quality for the sports code level. In achieving this, Kāpiti has the ability to host local, regional and possibly national competitions for various sports, which bring social and economic benefits to the district.

Organised sports – continued

Community members have raised concern about chemical line marking on sports fields and the misuse and overuse of agrichemical sprays.

The misuse and overuse of sprays can contaminate soil and waterways, specifically use in catchment areas and near stormwater drains, which risks entry into water, impacting ecological systems. Water quality is variable across the district at different times of the year. With minimal water flow in the summer, water quality is often worse during this time.

Alternative methods to agrichemical sprays are investigated and used where appropriate, particularly near waterways and environments where the community recreates, socialises and gathers kai. Positive flow-on effects for water quality enhance passive recreational activities such as fishing, swimming and mahinga kai.

As a coastal district, Kāpiti faces significant environmental challenges from our changing climate and associated rising sea and groundwater levels, and other major events such as earthquakes and landslides. Climate change is likely to make some areas more prone to coastal hazards and unsuitable for recreational facilities and fixed assets.

Reserves and CWB links near the coast continue to be carefully considered from a design perspective, particularly risk of erosion or sea-level rise. Reserve Management Plans and projects acknowledge these risks and impacts from natural hazards and are designed accordingly.

This strategy informs the Takutai Kāpiti project and Stormwater Strategy. The outcomes of the Takutai Kāpiti project will be reviewed and open spaces natural hazard risks considered in light of these strategies. Risk areas are identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan.

New Zealand's weather is expected to become more extreme, with increased flooding and other extreme events. Periods of drought or flooding are experienced from time to time, these events are anticipated.

Considerations such as irrigation requirements, water conservation and additional drainage on sports fields are incorporated into asset planning and design to ensure serviceability of sports fields.

Decisions are made with climate change effects in mind, allowing integrated management of these effects on recreational sites and within urban areas. Council's effective mitigation and adaptation methods prevent sportsgrounds and recreational sites from climate change effects like flooding, ponding, increased groundwater levels and sea-level rise. These areas may lessen the impact of these hazards on the community. Decision-making is carried out with climate change effects in mind.

Reserves management

Now	In the future
	Will influence:
Reserve Management Plans are only partially complete across the district. Management planning in recent has been undertaking with increasing iwi involvement and partnership.	Guidance on individual reserve's future use, management, vision and development is outlined in Reserve Management Plans prepared under the Reserves Act 1977. Council partners with iwi when developing or reviewing these documents. At the time of writing, a project to review and develop Reserve Management Plans for reserves requiring them) will begin in 2021.

Commercial activities

Now	In the future
	Will influence:
In the past, businesses and entrepreneurs have approached Council about commercial activities in open spaces however there is no framework or policy to currently support this.	The use, enjoyment and experience of some open spaces in Kāpiti may be enhanced through commercial activities. A framework for assessing and supporting commercial activities which are not to the detriment of people's enjoyment of public open space or the cultural, heritage or ecological values of the open space is developed and implemented. Commercial activities in these open spaces align with the Reserves Act 1977 and complies with the District Plan.

Freedom camping

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Freedom camping is growing both nationally and within the region. There is currently no Freedom Camping Strategy, and the facilities are struggling to keep up with demand, with increased risk on the natural environment as campers use open space for accommodation. A Freedom Camping Policy and Public Places Bylaw are in place, however, the current approach does not provide the appropriate tools to manage growing activity consistently. At the time of writing Council has 25 freedom camping spaces across 9 open space sites.	Freedom camping connects people to the environment, provides adventure, relaxation and enjoyment, and brings visitors to Kāpiti. It is a popular activity for international and national tourists to get 'off the beaten track' and explore new destinations. Improved freedom camping facilities, resources and camping locations are investigated and provided as appropriate in suitable locations to appropriately cater for the needs of this user group across the district, ensuring the surrounding environments are protected from human pressures.

Cemeteries

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
There is currently sufficient cemetery space within the district for the short and medium term. Council currently looks after a total of 11.66 hectares of active cemetery. This land area does not include historical cemeteries that are now closed to new interments or areas of land held for future expansion. At the current rate of burials across Kāpiti, it is expected that cemeteries will be at capacity in approximately 54 years (2073). Significant space is still available in Awa Tapū and Ōtaki cemeteries, with limited capacity in Waikanae. Currently the Council has no Cemetery Plan.	A Cemetery Plan is developed and cemetery provision is monitored and provided appropriately across Kāpiti. Council expands cemetery provision to meet the diverse needs and demands of the district. An outcome of this Strategy is to identify future spaces for cemetery growth, especially in the Waikanae ward.

Heritage

Now	In the future
Will influence:	
Awareness of heritage and historic sites within Kāpiti are limited due to informal and limited access, limited signage and promotion. These sites are treated in isolation rather than as a network.	Heritage areas and significant historical sites are considered as part of a wider contextual history, with linkages throughout the district to help tell these stories. Council gives expression to local heritage practices throughout the district, so they are understood and valued, as this is fundamental to open space experience and creates a sense of place. Kāpiti's historic sites are appropriately protected, enhanced and commemorated for future generations. Council supports incorporation of these sites into the open spaces network as a feature, if the opportunity arises. Various methods including education, signage, promotion and public art are adopted to create awareness and share knowledge and stories of these areas.

Neighbourhood parks and playgrounds are vital to the health and well-being of our communities.

4. Open Space Categories

Open space categories

The nine open space categories outlined in this section and throughout the Open Spaces Strategy are based on Recreation Aotearoa's guidelines (2017), with minor changes for relevance to the Kāpiti Coast.

A. Districtwide and destination parks

B. Sport and recreation

C. Iwi practices and sites

D. Heritage

E. Neighbourhood parks

F. Nature reserves

G. Outdoor adventure

H. Recreation and ecological linkages

I. Urban public space

Overview

This section describes the Kāpiti Coast District Council's open space categories in detail, their purpose, potential characteristics and the expected management standards. This helps with determining where various open spaces should be located, and guides design features and amenities for new developments and upgrades.

This will be used both for our existing network and to inform future network growth to ensure open space partners and providers understand Council's expectations for provision. Collectively the criteria set for each open space category assist in establishing appropriate levels of service (LOS).

The levels of service also provide guidelines on how to maintain provision in line with growth, for example the location, proximity, and ease of open space in proximity to urban dwellings. The district plan currently seeks that open space be provided within 400m of urban dwellings for example.

It's important to note that the open space categories in this section are a guideline. Park designs and amenities may vary, within financial reason, to suit their location. This will prevent them from being homogenised and ensure unique and appropriate open spaces are provided across Kāpiti. The categories also recognise that the intensity and type of development and management will vary according to site context and the availability of resources. Council needs to prioritise where it invests, and the categories in this section will support strategic decisions to ensure the most affordable and holistic open space outcomes for our community.

The open space categories identified are based on Recreation Aotearoa' s 2017 guidelines, with minor changes to ensure relevance to the Kāpiti Coast. This section is informed by the current issues and opportunities outlined in Part 3, and outlines how we will respond to these through the levels of service set by Council to achieve the aspirations of Council and our District. The levels of service generally relate only to Council-owned and -administered land, but in determining overall open space provision Council may take into account land administered or operated by others if there is good strategic alignment.

These categories are the building blocks of the open space network. In line with their purpose they will vary in shape, size and frequency of occurrence. There is currently only one Districtwide Park (Otaraua Park), but as all urban areas should be able to easily access a neighbourhood park there are many of these. Meanwhile sports fields require large, open, flat and free draining land, whereas recreational and ecological connections may be comprised of numerous areas of land stitched together in a chain across the landscape.

Generally, the categories follow ownership patterns; for example, neighbourhood reserves are Council-managed, while nature reserves are typically owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC) or Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). This emphasises the importance of a multi-agency lens when looking at the open spaces network. The information in these tables will help guide conversations with other agencies to assist in the delivery of a holistic network.

A. Districtwide and Destination Parks

Primary purpose

This open space type provides premier, high quality spaces to support cultural vibrancy, visitor attraction and events. They may also provide opportunities for connection with the environment for locals and visitors. They may include a range of experiences such as active recreation or novel attractions, places of relaxation, contemplation and appreciation, educational aspects, sports, events, functions or be valued for their amenity or intrinsic value.

Description

Destination and districtwide parks are often comprehensive, larger in scale, and provide a range of interesting experiences which are often unique to the place. They aim to offer amenities that support a full-day visit and typically attract people from across Kāpiti, as well as visitors, for this reason they may be are an integral part of the district's visitor attraction. These parks are often a destination in their own right, offering unique experiences, or facilities to support and enhance the park. These parks are areas of high use and a correspondingly high level of service. They are also of high significance to the local communities that they support. They are best supported through site specific management and development plans.

This park category includes public gardens, also described as botanical, horticultural and premium gardens. These include parks that are of significance to the city/district. The primary focus for public gardens is to create a place of beauty and tranquillity through high-quality horticultural design and maintenance, and other features as appropriate to the park's character. They often also contain historic heritage values. At the time of writing the Council does not have any public gardens.

A local example of a Council-owned districtwide park is Otaraua Park and a destination park is Maclean Park.

Approach

Kāpiti is considered to be well placed for destination and districtwide parks across the district, particularly when taking into account open spaces and opportunities provided by other agencies such as DOC and GWRC.

At a minimum open spaces in this category will have a facility that draws people to travel to the park, high-quality landscaping, iwi values and provide good accessibility for all ages and abilities.

For planning purposes no minimum size is identified, although it is expected sites should be no smaller than 5,000m^2. Park maintenance will be to a high standard and may be supported through volunteer or on site management of facilities and attractions. Parks in this category will be supported with wayfinding and entry signage, seating, rubbish bins, landscaping, carparking, drinking fountains and toilets as a minimum.

The potential for future creation of public gardens is included in this category and any provision will depend on demand and the opportunity to acquire a site that has specific special characteristics that warrant its acquisition or protection for this use.

Potential characteristics:

- a tourist destination with a particular feature or character
- venue for sports, events and functions.

Often exhibit one or more of the following values and attributes:

- peace and tranquillity
- horticultural excellence and diversity
- historic/heritage values
- artistic expression of Kāpiti identity
- novel play opportunities
- may include rongoā gardens, maara kai, mahinga kai.

Management standard[1]	Description	New Zealand benchmark	Current LOS
Premium	A high-use/high-profile park that people often take visitors to, or will travel some distance to visit. High-quality and unique assets are provided and maintained to a high standard.	This is a Kāpiti specific category and not measured nationally.	The Council currently has 2.48 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3).
Standard	Not applicable		
Basic*	Not applicable		

B. Sport and recreation

Primary purpose

Sport and recreation reserves are often designed and used for organised or competition sport and recreation. They are often multi-purpose, and may provide a range of other community activities and facilities.

Description

Sport and recreation reserves are likely to have a formally maintained sports turf or specialty surfaces for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. Sport and recreation reserves may include recreation facilities and buildings that are often multi-use, catering for formal and informal sport and recreation as well as community functions (for example, Kapiti Hockey Pavilion). Open spaces need to cater for sport and recreation trends. They need to be flexible and able to provide for emergent codes or variable participation in sports.

Sports turf areas are maintained to an appropriate standard for their use. The sport and recreation space may accommodate hard court and built recreation facilities. Toilets, changing facilities and car parking are likely to be available. Some spaces may have resident club facilities. An identifying factor is the provision of bookable sports play facilities, which is related to the primary purpose of the park.

A local example of a sport and recreation reserve is Te Ātiawa Park.

Approach

Kāpiti is currently considered well placed for land supply for sport and recreation and Otaraua Park will be developed at a rate to keep up with sport and recreation demand. In the future, for new developments in areas that do not have adequate sport and recreation provision, additional reserves may be needed to meet the demands of the growing population.

Sports fields will be monitored to ensure appropriate sports fields, playing hours and facilities are available for the needs of the community and the right standard.

Potential characteristics

Sports parks should be large enough for at least two full-size winter fields (approximate dimension 130 metres x 80 metres each, equal to approximately 1 hectare per winter field), and also have suitable land for onsite car parking, facility development and an off-field training ground. This equates to a minimum of 10 hectares, and up to 15 hectares to cater for multi-use activities. The relatively large areas of land for future sports and recreation parks will support multi-use activity.

Land provided will need to be level with well-drained, good quality soils, and be clear of public utilities. They should be located near residential areas, with good arterial road access and visibility. Services and facilities will ideally be centralised. As a minimum, sport and recreation reserves will have wayfinding and entry signage, seating, rubbish bins, landscaping, carparking, drinking fountains and toilets. Premium facilities may include spectator areas or seating.

Other facilities that could be incorporated as new trends develop, to achieve open space desired outcomes (beyond minimum and consideration of figure 14) are lighting (amenity and floodlights), turf irrigation and pathways.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	For highest/premier grades of competition sport or high levels of use. Typically includes a large range of quality assets, special surfaces and high maintenance standards.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national median benchmark of 2.1 ha of sports park per 1,000 residents.	Council has 1.3 ha per 1,000 residents with capacity for this to increase at Otaraua Park.
Standard	For standard grades of competition sport or medium levels of use. Typically provides for one or two codes and is maintained to a moderate standard.		
Basic	Caters for lower or junior grades of sport or practice faclities. Basic assets provided, and maintained at a basic standard.		

C. Iwi practices and sites

Primary purpose

To support and provide opportunities for and give expression to mana whenua values.

Description

Iwi practices and sites are considered sites of cultural significance, and include rongoā gardens, maara kai, mahinga kai. The community has raised the importance of developing an open space network that supports the relationship of mana whenua to the environment. Open spaces in this category provide opportunities for whānau, hapū and iwi to connect to the environment and one another through traditional iwi practices. These may be distinct sites in themselves, or they may occur within or as part of any of the other categories. A local example is the Waikanae Estuary.

Approach

Council will support incorporation of iwi sites into the open space network as a feature in the park or reserve if an opportunity arises.

It is recognised that all land in the district has the potential to be of significance to mana whenua. If development occurs or is proposed, developers are asked to engage with mana whenua in the early stages of planning. Documentation of correspondence should be included in any proposals as far as possible. To assess any potential new areas under this park type, Council will require supporting information to develop an evaluation process and approach to partnership.

Potential characteristics:

- a tourist destination with a particular feature or character
- venue for sports, events and functions
- peace and tranquillity
- endemic or native species or planting
- historic and heritage elements
- artistic or cultural expression of Kāpiti Identity
- play opportunities
- rongoā gardens, maara kai, mahinga kai

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	To be developed with Mana Whenua	This is a Kāpiti specific category and not measured nationally.	Currently unknown
Standard	To be developed with Mana Whenua		
Basic	To be developed with Mana Whenua		

D. Heritage

Primary purpose

These park types protect the built cultural environment to provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance. Examples of heritage sites are monuments, memorials, historic buildings, sites of heritage or historic significance, artist expression and cemeteries. These sites are attractive and peaceful places of remembrance. They allow us to protect and experience our heritage, and provide for a range of interment and remembrance options for loved ones.

Description

Primarily heritage park types which protect and provide opportunities to experience our cultural heritage. They include cemeteries, which provide spaces for interment and remembrance. Generally, a low level of development is envisaged for heritage parks, with the objective being to protect and preserve heritage values. They may also incorporate natural heritage areas.

Higher use sites may require facilities such as car parking, toilets and signage. Restoration and enhancement work may be undertaken to protect and preserve heritage values and features.

A local example of a heritage park is Awa Tapu Cemetery.

Approach

Council's heritage park provision is currently lower than the national benchmark, but there is sufficient cemetery space within the district for the short and medium term. At the current rate of burials, it's expected that cemeteries will be at capacity in approximately 54 years (2073). The majority of this capacity is in Awa Tapu and Ōtaki cemeteries, but there is limited capacity in Waikanae. Cemetery space will be monitored (particularly in Waikanae) to ensure appropriate cemetery provision and future capacity planning, and Council will maintain cemetery capacity to ensure there are burial options across the district to allow for geographic and cultural preferences of the community.

Development of heritage parks and cemeteries will be appropriate to the proposed use of the site and level of expected visits, and Council will ensure the financial contributions needed for future cemetery growth.

Potential characteristics

Many heritage sites with significant value are distributed across the open space network within other open space categories.

At a minimum these sites include information signage, landscaping (including trees) and seating, they may employ innovative methods of site interpretation. Cemeteries may also include horticultural displays, internal roading, water supply, cemetery-related buildings, car parking and rubbish bins.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	A park of significant value or high use. A range of quality assets provided and maintained to a high standard.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national median benchmark of 0.45 ha per 1,000 residents.	Council currently has 0.27 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3).
Standard	A standard level of service is anticipated for sites of lower value and use. These sites typically have a few basic quality assets provided and maintained to a basic standard.		
Basic	Not applicable.		

E. Neighbourhood

Primary purpose

Neighbourhood parks provide informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family-based activities, and social and community activities. They are vital to supporting community resilience and connection.

Description

Neighbourhood parks are walkable from the homes of residents in urban areas. They may include playgrounds, kick about areas, amenity planting, seating and rubbish bins. They are effectively the "base unit" of the open space network in our urban environments. As urbanisation intensifies, local parks and reserves become increasingly important, serving as a backyard for urban residents. Access to nature and open space provides many health and wellbeing benefits; for example, social connectivity that enhances community resilience, especially in times of a civil emergency.

A local example is Regent Drive Reserve.

Approach

Kāpiti currently meets best practice for neighbourhood park provision in most areas, though there are exceptions to this in Ōtaki and Waikanae for example. Ease of walking access to neighbourhood parks is critical and as the district continues to grow, land for neighbourhood parks will generally be acquired at the time of planning new subdivision and development.

Potential characteristics

Neighbourhood parks can be accessed within walking distance of urban dwellings.
They should be a minimum of 1,500m^2, with a preferred provision of up to 5,000m^2.Typically 70 per cent of the park should be comprised of usable flat land with good drainage, good soils, and not encumbered by public utilities.

5000m^2 is larger than many existing neighbourhood parks depending on their origin, but this size allows for a reasonable mix of activities; for example, a large ball-play space, basketball half court, playgrounds (both junior and senior), tennis courts, gardens and "quiet" spaces. It's important to be able to provide a reasonable separation from adjoining residential properties, to give them space from active or noisy activities.

Neighbourhood parks should have an open frontage (providing a safe ambience), with at least one full road frontage, and pedestrian/cycle access to other streets to maximise linkages to as many parts of the neighbourhood as possible. Ideally neighbourhood parks should have a choice of access points to increase use and avoid entrapment. They should be centrally located in a residential area, away from high-volume roads. Where possible neighbourhood parks should connect to ecological and cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) linkages to help connect the district, increase accessibility and enhance biodiversity. One local park per community is anticipated.

One local park per rural community is anticipated.

At a minimum, neighbourhood parks will provide seating, paths, landscaping and be easily accessed.

Other elements that could be incorporated as new needs develop include community gardens and orchards, dog parks, buildings used for local community, or expression of iwi and community values.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	Up to 15000m2 e.g. Pohutukawa Park. A larger neighbourhood park that people may travel several kilometres to use. A good range and number of quality assets are maintained to a medium standard.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national median benchmark of 0.62 ha per 1,000 residents.	Council currently has 1.0 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3).
Standard	A 3000m2 – 5000m2. A neighbourhood park used by local residents, in walking distance of their home. A few basic quality assets are maintained to a medium standard.		
Basic	1500m2 – 3000m2 . A neighbourhood park used by local residents, in walking distance of their home. A few basic quality assets are maintained to a medium standard.		

F. Nature reserves

Primary purpose

Nature reserves provide opportunities for people to experience nature, habitat for flora and fauna, support for ecosystem functions, or esplanade reserves. Examples of nature reserves may include remnant native vegetation, restoration sites, esplanade reserves, coastal and lake margins, and ecological areas such as dunes and wetlands. They provide protection of native habitat where this is not possible through other means and may support environmental education and the public use and experience of these habitat types.

Description

Nature reserves contain natural features that are being restored or conserved, they may be adjacent to or contain water bodies such as wetlands, or be areas of native bush/grassland or another native ecological habitat. They can significantly add to visual and open space, natural character and landscape values of an area.

Following evidence that being in nature is good for wellbeing and mental health, there is currently a drive to increase the ability to experience nature in urban environments.

A local example is Russell Reserve.

Approach

The Council's provision of nature reserves is currently below the national median benchmark, but this excludes the large areas of natural parkland owned by DOC and GWRC in the district. For some residents these sites can be difficult to access without a vehicle; the Council aims to improve access to these sites with CWB links where possible.

Nature reserves with high value on public land will be protected; for example, covenants will be considered, and public connectivity improved where possible.

Council aims to maintain or increase vegetation cover across the district, in collaboration with other agencies such as GWRC and DOC. This has the potential to contribute to climate change adaptation and carbon sequestration.

Where new development adjoins areas with potential for ecological enhancement or preservation as a nature reserve, these should be carefully considered during the development process. It is intended that this would support and enhance existing natural areas. Nature reserves can be quite large where they contain wetlands, grassland or native bush. For planning purposes no minimum size is identified.

Potential characteristics

Nature reserves developed may provide for low-impact activities such as bike tracks, walking, mahinga kai, maara kai, and rongoā. They should incorporate wayfinding/entry signage and include native taonga species at a minimum.
Other values and attributes of nature reserves may include:

- parkland adjoining the coast or water bodies, such as lakes/ponds
- intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems
- unique, significant or threatened indigenous flora and fauna
- natural wetland areas
- outstanding natural features and landscapes including geological features.

Other types of facilities that could be incorporated depending on site characteristics include pathways, seating, picnic tables, toilets, car parking, drinking fountains and elements of artistic or cultural expression.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	Emphasis on animal pest and weed control, track maintenance. May include specialised fixed assts and interpretation panels.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national benchmark of 6.7ha per 1,000 residents.	Council currently has 5.5 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3).
Standard	Emphasis on animal pest and weed control, track maintenance.		
Basic	Emphasis on animal pest and weed control. No tracks.		

G. Outdoor adventure

Primary purpose

The primary purpose of outdoor adventure open spaces is to provide recreation and sporting activities in a unique landscape environment; for example, mountain biking, high ropes, rock climbing, wind sports or motorised recreation. There is often an element of adventure or challenge associated with these experiences and they may play a role in regional or even national visitor attraction.

Description

Outdoor adventure spaces are often associated with wild or natural environments, exposed dramatic landscapes and scenic beauty. Recreation and sporting activities are programmed or designed to support the experience of these landscapes. They may be associated with built facilities at key points, and may occur in forested, rural or peri-urban environments. They provide a unique experience and a destination that people will travel to and spend a reasonable amount of time enjoying.

Depending on how they are conceived and presented, cycleways, walkways and bridleways across Kāpiti can also contribute to outdoor adventure experiences. For example, the Paekākāriki Escarpment Walk has become a destination in itself. Other agencies such as DOC and GWRC will be important in the forward provision of this category (e.g. Mountain bike trails at Akatarawa Forest Park and Whareroa Farm).

Council anticipates that outdoor adventure activities may be developed across a broad range of landscapes such as river, beach, forest, coast, hills, mountains and farmland.

Approach

The Council does not currently categorise any of its open space as outdoor adventure. Council has many areas that have the potential to be cohesively enhanced provide outdoor adventure experiences, and the development of these experiences can be considered overtime.

Where new development comes into contact with areas that could potentially be used for outdoor adventure, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Potential characteristics

- → large sites
- → generally located on outskirts of urban areas, as they require space and the separation from the urban environment
- → character of the park may vary, from exotic forestry, farm land, to coastal and river areas
- → recreation activity that uses the area as a natural setting that contribute to recreation appeal.
- → access for vehicles may be required
- → clear and navigable access and signage to outdoor adventure offerings each settlement/ community.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	Not currently applicable to KCDC.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national benchmark of 2.7 ha per 1,000 residents.	Land currently managed by GWRC and DoC equates to 600ha per 1000 residents.
Standard	Not currently applicable to KCDC.		
Basic	Not currently applicable to KCDC.		

Note, the level of service for outdoor adventure parks can vary widely depending on the type of park and level of use. The level of service may also vary from one area of the park to the other, for example entry points may be developed to a high standard with extensive facilities, and remote areas may have few facilities/services.

H. Recreation and ecological linkages

Primary purpose

These linkages allow people and wildlife to move through the landscape over considerable distances, they support active transport, landscape and ecological connectivity.

They provide cycleway, walkway and bridleway linkages from one neighbourhood to another, beach accessways, links between parks, and access enhancements such as along water ways and ridgelines. They may also be associated with infrastructure as in the case of the expressways. These may be coupled with ecological corridors to connect fragmented habitat areas.

Description

Recreation and ecological linkages perform an important role in meeting sustainability objectives through the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, providing ecological linkages through urban environments and contributing to urban form and landscape values. They provide opportunities for walking, cycle and bridleway linkages through rural and urban environments.

They also perform a wide range of functions including habitat creation, areas for picnics, walking, biking, horse riding and other recreation.

These networks provide active transport options for safe travel to work, school and community facilities and contribute to health benefits. They are also a potential tourism opportunity and drawcard.

Due to their nature, these linkages may often extend over vast distances at the landscape scale and as such interagency partnerships and other landowner relationships are critical to achieving full connectivity.

A local example is the Waikanae River Trail.

Approach

Council currently has a good network of CWB tracks across Kāpiti compared to other local areas. The Council will communicate future CWB and ecological connectivity desired outcomes with developers to continue improving the network across the district (see the maps in Part 5 for possible future connections). New developments will plan to connect with existing trails, town centres, community facilities and reserves where possible.

Future development will also support the challenges identified in the Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy, such as the need for more CWB infrastructure in Ōtaki, and improved CWB connections to the railway stations in Paraparaumu and Waikanae.

Potential characteristics

Ecological connectivity can be enhanced through restoration corridors linking areas of remnant native vegetation, this is also likely to make these corridors more attractive for recreation.

Where possible and appropriate recreational linkages (such as CWB) will be accessible for all ages and abilities. This should include provision of supporting facilities such as seating, and clear wayfinding signage, and may include bridges, boardwalks and lookout points. Vehicle and parking will usually be limited to main entry points.

Recreation and ecological linkages typically connect popular places and spaces, provide many active transport opportunities, enhance ecological connectivity and support traditional modes of passage, such as waka through waterways.

H. Recreation and ecological linkages – continued

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	Service inputs on high-use areas This includes a higher maintenance of tracks to meet universal design standards where appropriate. Visitor facilities such as toilets and picnic/parking areas if applicable.	Yardstick (2020) provides a national benchmark of 2.92 ha per 1,000 residents. Yardstick (2020) provides a national median benchmark of 1088 m of walking path and tracks per 1,000 residents.	Council currently has 2.8 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3). Council currently has approximately 1,509 m of cycleways, walkways and bridleways per 1,000 residents. Management standards are not applied and are in the form of guidance at the time of writing.
Standard	Service inputs on high-use areas along recreation and ecological linkages. This includes a medium standard of track maintenance to support main CWB routes. Enroute visitor facilities such as toilets and picnic/parking areas typically associated with parks and reserves.		
Basic	Service inputs on recreation and ecological linkages are expected to be low in more remote areas, with an emphasis on animal pest and weed control and basic track maintenance being a focus.		

I. Urban public space

Primary purpose

Urban public spaces are areas of open space provided within or adjacent to town and village centres providing a space for social gatherings, meeting places, events, relaxation and enjoyment. They may support commercial activity, either through complementary association or by providing a venue for temporary events such as markets and festivals.

Description

Urban public spaces bring people together and provide an attractive landscape within a built environment. They can be activated to create interaction opportunities and/or places for people to stop and connect, which they might not otherwise do. Areas identified as Civic parks are central locations that are easily accessible, or where a natural point of congregation will occur.

Parks and spaces in this category have may have a high standard of development and presentation, associated with their high-profile location and visitor usage.

A local example is Mahara Place, Waikanae.

Approach

Council provision is largely dependent on historic land tenure, but creating urban public spaces should be considered in all new business/retail centre developments. Future provision may be enabled through public/private partnerships.

Potential characteristics

The size of urban public spaces can vary widely, from a few hundred square metres up to a hectare or more for large squares. They should be within walking distance of town and village centres and major public transport hubs. Urban open space is often provided within or adjacent to commercial areas.

Considerations to be given to the development of an urban public space:

- a range of high-quality surface treatments, including hard- and soft-landscaped areas
- a high level of amenity enhancement
- visually attractive open space within urban development
- majority pedestrianised, although may be shared with vehicles as appropriate
- lighting to make the areas attractive and safe at night
- high quality and durable furniture items
- bespoke elements, artworks or other interpretation that add to local character
- provision for multiple modes of transport with an emphasis on walkability and other active modes.
- universal access design for mobility
- promoting good connections to and from open spaces with a focus on active transport modes.

May also contain: a range of elements appropriate to support a diverse and interesting built environment; for example, public art, water features, feature lighting, heritage features such as memorials, clocks, play areas, novel installations, maara kai and fruit trees.

Management standard	Description	New Zealand benchmark LOS	Current LOS
Premium	Spaces in District or Town Centres with the highest service standards supporting high public use and associated civic and business activity.	Not measured.	Council currently has 0.01 ha per 1,000 residents (identified in Part 3).
Standard	Spaces in Village Centres with the high to moderate service standards supporting moderate public use and associated community and business activity.		
Basic	Spaces associated with other commercial or service areas with low to moderate service standards supporting general public use and associated community and business activity.		

Council worked in partnership with the Ōtaki Lions Club to create a pump track at Haruatai Park.

5. Growing the Network

How does the network grow?

As the Kāpiti Coast District's population increases, there is a need for more land and improved open space access to meet community needs, and protection for more areas of cultural, ecological and amenity value as part of the wider public open space network.

This Open Spaces Strategy provides guidance for open space provision and distribution, to continue to meet the open space needs and demands of the growing district.

As the district grows and there is more development, the demand and pressure on reserves and facilities also increases. To maintain open space values, Kāpiti Coast District Council will need to increase both the size and level of service of the open space network, relative to its residential catchments.

The mechanisms for growing the Council-managed open space network are typically:

- Through the vesting of new open spaces as part of a subdivision process.
- Through strategic land purchase through the Strategic Land Purchase Fund, funded through financial contributions and borrowings.
- The receipt of the gift of land from a donor in accordance with Council's Gifting Assets Policy.
- Access agreements with private landowners to support enhanced cycleway, walkway and bridleway (CWB) connectivity.
- Formation of esplanade reserves and strips during subdivision.

Additionally Council may advocate for or support the delivery of open space outcomes in partnership with others:

- Other public land managers (eg.GWRC and DOC)
- Other government agencies (eg. Waka Kotahi)
- Private sector (eg.major land holders and developers)
- Iwi

Growth of the network needs to be strategic and affordable. With this in mind, decisions not to acquire land are equally important for managing Council's risk, liability and holding costs. Strategic decisions not to acquire land will allow Council to manage its limited resources to achieve the best outcomes for the community and environment.

Land acquisition through subdivision

Planning new open space? Talk to us first. The Council encourages developers looking to subdivide to engage early with Council's Parks and Open Space team, even prior to a resource consent pre-application meeting. This will help ensure development ideas align with the Council's strategic direction. Early engagement will ensure an applicant's vision and aspirations for their development are consistent with what the Council has identified as the Kāpiti community's current and future open space needs and demands.

Early engagement will reduce risk, and avoid surprises for both parties. While the early conversations can help inform future development during the design stages, it's important to note that such discussions are preliminary. A full assessment, recommendation and acceptance of land to vest can only be completed through delegated authority under the applicable statutory process. Final acceptance will only be confirmed by the Council's delegated authority (the Chief Executive at the time of writing) on recommendation from Council officers.

Council's standards and specifications for developing new open space are outlined in Subdivision Development Principles and Requirements (SDPR) and NZS 4404. At the time of writing the SDPR is under review. In conjunction with the NZS 4404 Development Standards, the SDPR provides Council's minimum standards for new landscape areas that arise from development. For example, the SDPR outlines minimum maintenance periods for new landscape and standard specifications for design.

When considering land to vest, any proposed landscape design specifications, implementation programme and maintenance standards for a given site should all be considered, to ensure they fit with Council's strategy and affordability. This information will be required for Council's assessment of new reserves or assets to vest.

Strategic property purchase

Council may occasionally have the opportunity to purchase land that is identified as being strategically significant for open space purposes. This may be through the open market or other processes, such as Waka Kotahi disposal of surplus land acquired by the Crown under the Public Works Act 1981. Parks officers will make recommendations to Council regarding the purchase of land.

Gifting of land

Land may be gifted to Council through the divestment of balance land from development, or philanthropic donation (for example). This land will be considered through the guidance provided by this strategy, and in relation to Council's Gifting Assets Policy. The risk of accepting the gift of land will be assessed in relation to the benefit of the land being in public ownership.

Esplanade reserves and strips

Increasing the recreational and ecological linkages associated with waterways is a key area of opportunity to meet a range of objectives in this strategy. New connections for stream or river corridors may be achieved through esplanade reserves or strips, or a combination of the two. Requirements for esplanade reserves are outlined in the District Plan. Council may also consider areas outside of those identified on a case-by-case basis, to increase recreational and ecological connectivity. Appropriate restorative planting and physical access enhancements for CWB should be agreed when they're created, to ensure esplanade areas are manageable and fit for purpose.

Access agreements

Council doesn't necessarily need to own land for it to contribute to open space connectivity; CWB connections may be best provided through an access strip or formal right of way supporting public access. Such agreements may be considered instead of development impact fees, depending on the context.

Decisions not to acquire land

The acceptance of land to vest is at the discretion of Council, and nothing in this strategy shall affect or impact Council's decision not to acquire land. There may be occasions where iwi values are present in the land, but for reasons such as operational liability or cost Council decides not to acquire land. This decision is at the discretion of Council.

Consideration of mana whenua values when assessing new land acquisition

All land in the district may be of significance to mana whenua, and Council will work to ensure that mana whenua values are appropriately incorporated into the land acquisition process as far as possible.

Open space acquisition through subdivision

Where open space will be formed through subdivision, it's advised that the applicant engages with mana whenua as early as possible. A subdivision application should typically include a cultural impact assessment (CIA) prepared by iwi as part of the application. If a developer proposes vesting land with Council, the developer must provide documented evidence of the cultural significance of the land as part of the response to the acquisition criteria outlined in this strategy. Where iwi values have been identified through the resource consent application process (through a CIA or other means) these may be referenced in the applicant's assessment in relation to Open Spaces Strategy acquisition criteria. Council may engage independently with our iwi partners to ensure that iwi values are adequately reflected in forming new reserves.

Considering a gift of land

Where Council is asked to contemplate the gift of land from a private donor, we will engage appropriately with our iwi partners as part of considering such an offer. Council has a corporate policy for the gifting of assets, which includes the assessment of gifts of land. During the assessment Council will engage across its teams, including the Iwi Partnerships team, to determine the level of engagement appropriate. Should the anonymity of a donor be requested, Council may exercise discretion to ensure this.

Strategic property purchase

Council may seek to acquire land through purchase for strategic reasons. In this case the acquisition is commercial in nature, and Council may act independently of its iwi partners. Council will engage its partners as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

Retaining flexibility

During assessment for new land acquisition, Council may choose to consider not formally classifying the open space as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. For example, Council may choose to acquire land for a future community function (such as community housing area or to support water supply), which could function as open space until it is developed for a community purpose. This may be considered on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.

Funding for growth

Population and business growth create the need for new subdivisions and developments, and these place increasing demands on the assets and services provided by Council. As a result, significant investment in new or upgraded assets and services is required to meet the demands of growth.

In order to ensure that a fair, equitable and proportionate share of the cost of that infrastructure is funded by development, the following funding tools are made available to Council:

- financial contributions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and
- development contributions under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)

Council currently uses financial contributions under the RMA as the primary mechanism to fund new reserves and the upgrading of existing reserves to accommodate growth, and to mitigate the effects of development on natural and physical resources of the District. The financial contributions provisions are set out in Part 12 of the Operative Kāpiti Coast District Plan and / or the Proposed Kāpiti Coast District Plan, which is available to view at Council Offices and on Council's website kapiticoast.govt.nz.

Contributions can be made in the form of land (where increased open space provision is necessary) or cash (where, for example, the immediate area already has enough open space land), or a combination of the two. When a cash contribution is made, Council can use this to upgrade existing reserves within proximity to the development or within district-wide parks/destination parks such as Otaraua Park in order to maintain the capacity of the network relative to growth (depending on the purpose for which the contribution is made).

Council is currently exploring a transition from financial contributions to development contributions under the LGA, to fund growth related reserves acquisition and development. Council's Development Contributions (DC) Policy is included in its Long Term Plan (LTP). It is anticipated that once this Strategy is adopted that the DC Policy may be updated to include reserves contributions. This would involve removing financial contributions for reserves from the Kāpiti Coast District Plan. There will be a public consultation when this transition is made, to provide the community an opportunity for feedback. Future LTPs will provide the detail of forecasted land acquisition for new reserves development and upgrades to existing reserves required as a result of growth.

The table below identifies the **suggested** development catchments which will apply to each of the Open Space Categories identified in this strategy.

Open space category	Suggested development catchment
A. Districtwide/destination	Districtwide
B. Sport and recreation	Districtwide
C. Iwi practices and sites	Ward based
D. Heritage	Ward based
E. Neighbourhood	Ward based
F. Nature reserves	Districtwide
G. Outdoor adventure	Districtwide
H. Recreation and ecological connection	Districtwide
I. Urban public space	Ward based

Determining open space catchments

The District Plan supports open space provision through it's policies and rules. The number of dwellings within the catchment of an area of open space depends on the density of of development. Based on a typical suburban development density, Council has determined that 224 dwellings are able to be serviced within 400 metres walking distance of a neighbourhood reserve.

Assuming an average occupancy of 2.5 people per dwelling, this equates to 560 people in the park catchment. The open space categories in this strategy require neighbourhood parks to be generally an area of 3,000–5,000m^2. To determine the neighbourhood reserve development contribution, an area of 4,000m^2 is used, resulting in a provision of 17.9m^2 per household. This ratio is an assumption only, based on the district's current neighbourhood reserve level of service for suburban areas.

Other variables for determining development contributions are the value of land and the value of typical improvements on that land to make it fit for purpose as a neighbourhood reserve.

The diagram below illustrates the notional catchment for a typical neighbourhood park in Kāpiti. The determination of catchment areas will form the basis for development contributions calculations, which will be kept up to date through the Council's LTP review processes.

Identifying a proposed site's purpose

As identified throughout the strategy, open space values may exist on land of all types, regardless of reserve status. To determine development contributions for reserves, however, it's important to determine the primary function of a given area of land when considering land in lieu of cash contributions. This may not always be straightforward (for example where stormwater or flood hazard areas required to service a development are co-located within reserves).

Broadly, the suitability of land as open space is determined by asking:

- → does it meet the open space categories as detailed in this strategy?
- → what is the opportunity to contribute to open space values?
- → does it align with the Council's open space vision, kaupapa, huanga and tikanga?
- → what are the risks and barriers associated with the proposed site?
- → how could the community's wellbeing be improved with the acquired land?

Criteria to help determine the extent to which land being considered for acquisition as open space is suitable for open space purposes is provided in the appendices.

A town-based view of the network

Working collaboratively to communicate our open space vision

As the open space network develops, it's important that a network-based view of development is shared with our partners and community. The following maps provide a summary of the existing network structure, and possible areas for network development.

OPPOSITE PAGE : Bridleways in the District provide a unique offering for visitors and locals.

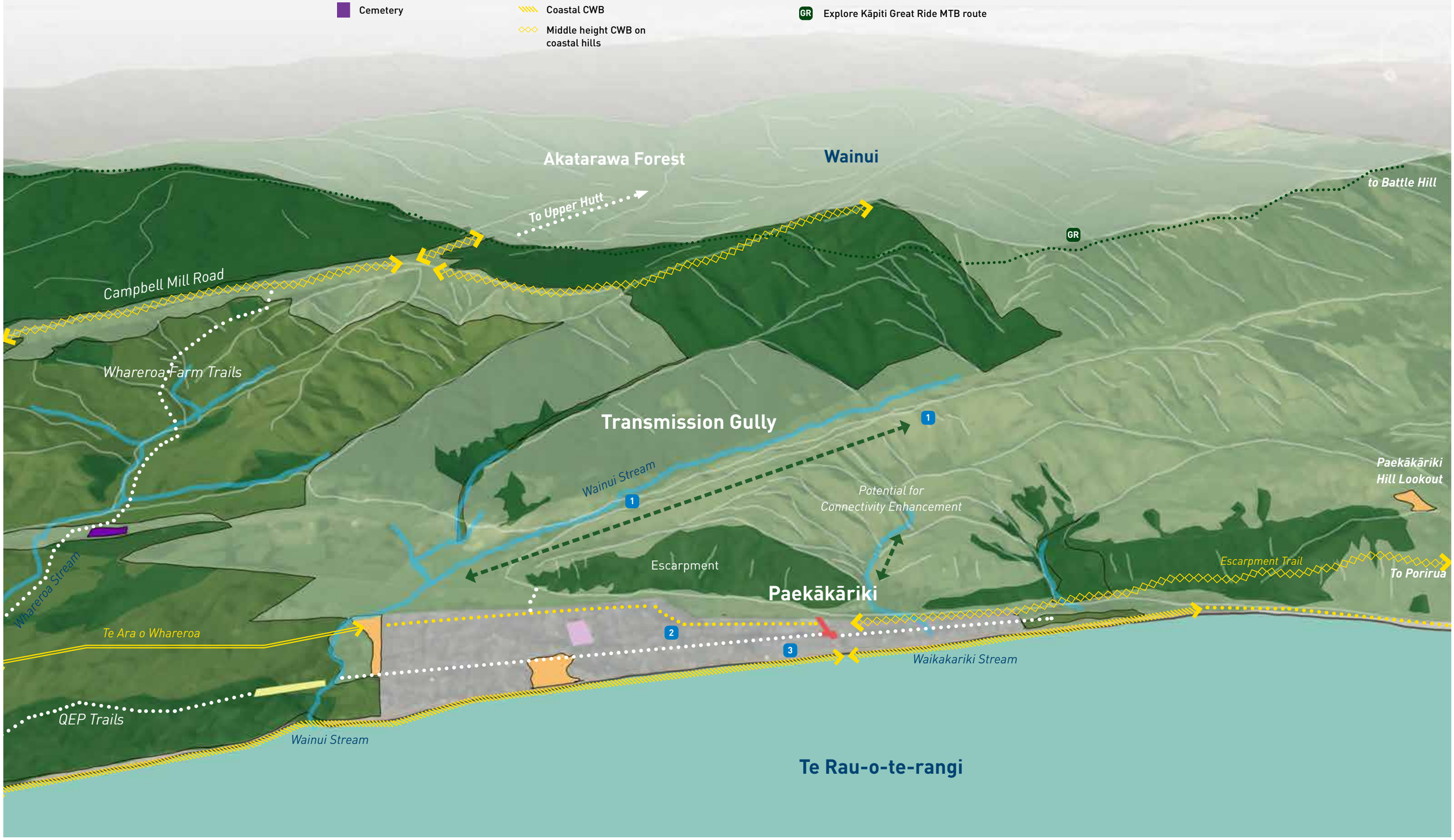
Paekākāriki

- Ecologically Significant Site (Public & Private land)
- Neighbourhood Park
- Destination/Districtwide
- Nature Reserve
- Urban Public Space
- Cemetery
- Education Ministry Land
- Urban Area
- Sport and Recreation
- CWB connectivity potential to be explored
- Expressway Shared Paths
- Coastal CWB
- Middle height CWB on coastal hills

Potential Areas of Network Growth / Upgrade

1. NZTA Surplus land / Wainuiwhenua environmental and recreational connectivity enhancement.
2. Urban North - South CWB connectivity improvements
3. Paekākāriki Seawall

GR Explore Kāpiti Great Ride MTB route



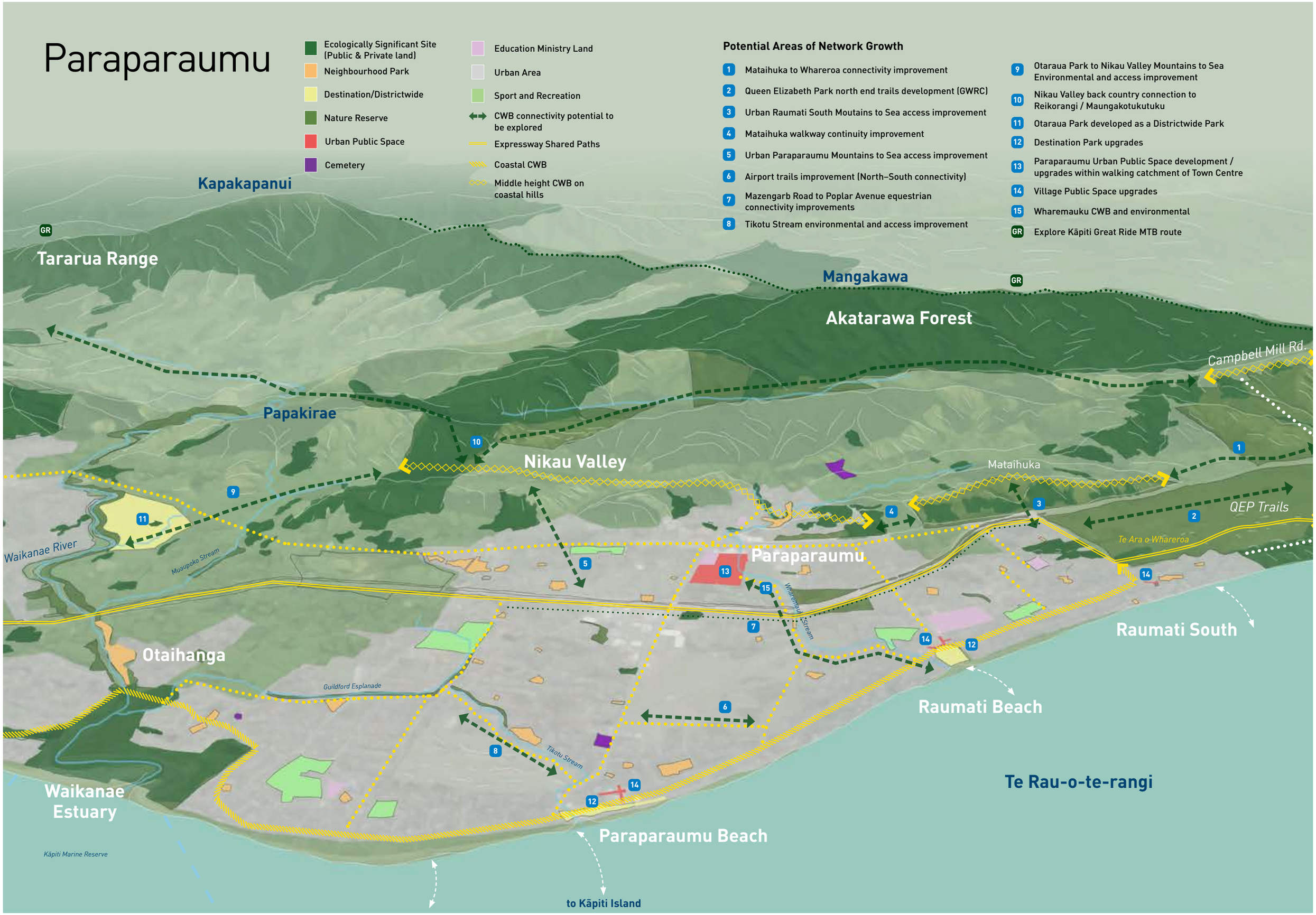
Paraparaumu

- Ecologically Significant Site (Public & Private land)
- Neighbourhood Park
- Destination/Districtwide
- Nature Reserve
- Urban Public Space
- Cemetery
- Education Ministry Land
- Urban Area
- Sport and Recreation
- CWB connectivity potential to be explored
- Expressway Shared Paths
- Coastal CWB
- Middle height CWB on coastal hills

Potential Areas of Network Growth

1. Mataihuka to Whareroa connectivity improvement
2. Queen Elizabeth Park north end trails development (GWRC)
3. Urban Raumati South Moutains to Sea access improvement
4. Mataihuka walkway continuity improvement
5. Urban Paraparaumu Mountains to Sea access improvement
6. Airport trails improvement (North–South connectivity)
7. Mazengarb Road to Poplar Avenue equestrian connectivity improvements
8. Tikotu Stream environmental and access improvement
9. Otaraua Park to Nikau Valley Mountains to Sea Environmental and access improvement
10. Nikau Valley back country connection to Reikorangi / Maungakotukutuku
11. Otaraua Park developed as a Districtwide Park
12. Destination Park upgrades
13. Paraparaumu Urban Public Space development / upgrades within walking catchment of Town Centre
14. Village Public Space upgrades
15. Wharemauku CWB and environmental

GR Explore Kāpiti Great Ride MTB route



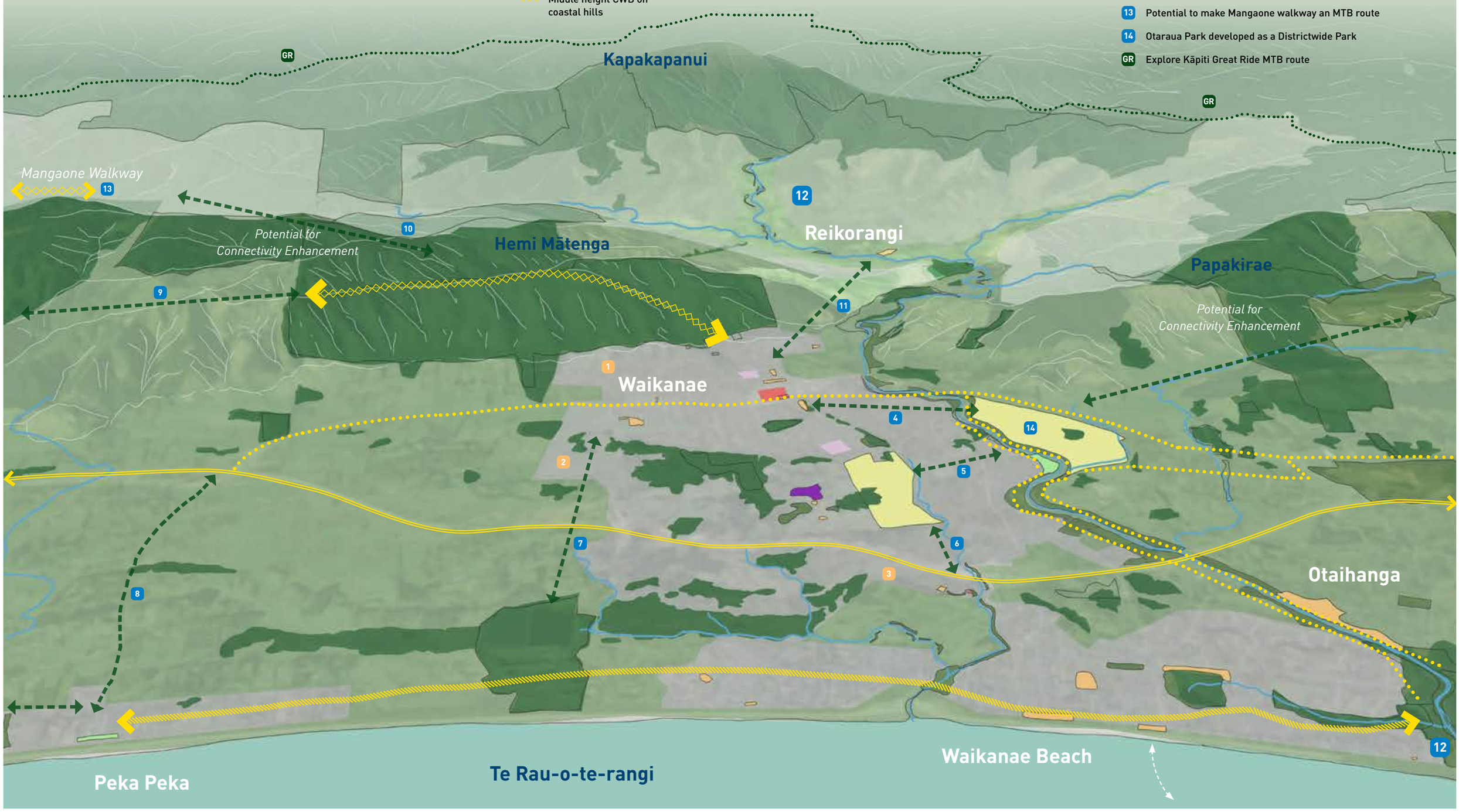
Waikanae

- Ecologically Significant Site (Public & Private land)
- Neighbourhood Park
- Destination/Districtwide
- Nature Reserve
- Urban Public Space
- Cemetery
- Education Ministry Land
- Urban Area
- Sport and Recreation
- CWB connectivity potential to be explored
- Expressway Shared Paths
- Coastal CWB
- Middle height CWB on coastal hills

Potential Areas of Network Growth

1. Address low neighourhood park provision (Huia)
2. New neighourhood park provision (Waikanae North)
3. New Neighbourhood Park Provision (Waimeha/Ngarara)
4. Waikanae to Otaraua Park CWB enhnacemnet
5. Waikanae Park to Otaraua Park CWB enhancement
6. Waikanae Park to Expressway CWB Enhancement
7. Waikanae North to Pharazyn Reserve CWB and environmental corridor
8. Pekapeka Road CWB enhancement
9. Hemi Mātenga to Te Horo hill country connectivity
10. Hemi Mātenga to Reikorangi route (Te Araroa Trail)
11. Waikanae to Reikorangi CWB and environmental connectivity
12. Waikanae ki uta ki tai project
13. Potential to make Mangaone walkway an MTB route
14. Otaraua Park developed as a Districtwide Park

GR Explore Kāpiti Great Ride MTB route



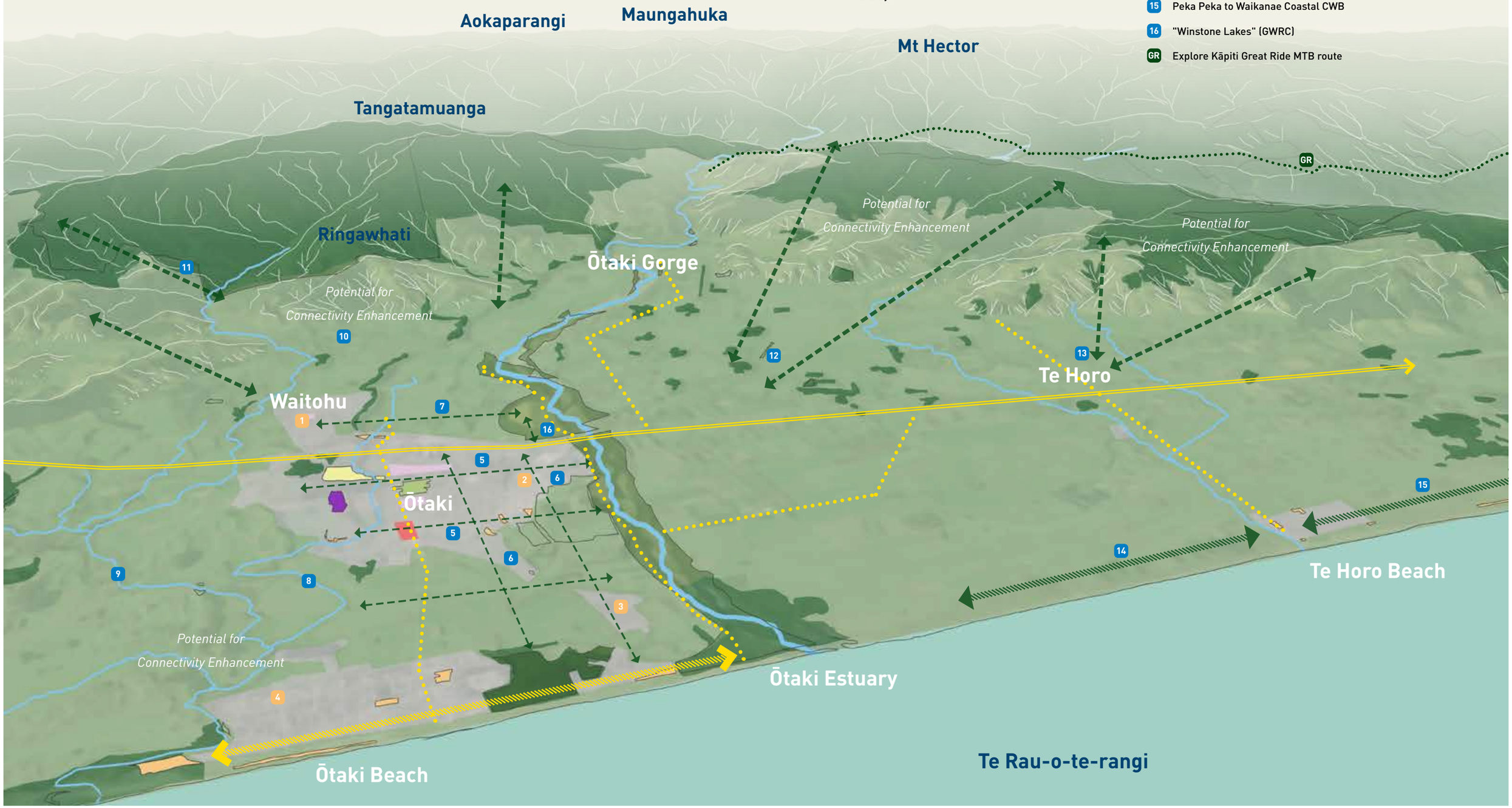
Ōtaki

- Ecologically Significant Site (Public & Private land)
- Neighbourhood Park
- Destination/Districtwide
- Nature Reserve
- Urban Public Space
- Cemetery
- Education Ministry Land
- Urban Area
- Sport and Recreation
- CWB connectivity potential to be explored
- Expressway Shared Paths
- Coastal CWB
- Middle height CWB on coastal hills

Potential Areas of Network Growth

1. Address low neighourhood park provision (Waitohu)
2. Address low neighourhood park provision (Wairenga/Riverbank)
3. Address low neighourhood park provision (Rangiuru)
4. Address low neighourhood park provision (Ngaio/Norfolk)
5. Enhance urban CWB network North-Sorth (Streams to River)
6. Enhance urban CWB network East–West (Railway to Beach)
7. Enhance urban CWB Connectivity (Waitohu to River east of Railway)
8. Maungpouri Stream environmental and connectivty improvement
9. Waitohu Stream environmental and connectivity improvement
10. Waitohu to hills access and environmental connectivity enhancement
11. Thompson's Track MTB route to Manakau
12. Hautere to hills environmental connectivity enhancement
13. Te Horo to hills access and environmental connectivity enhancement including Sutton Road connection.
14. Peka Peka to Ōtaki Coastal CWB
15. Peka Peka to Waikanae Coastal CWB
16. "Winstone Lakes" (GWRC)

GR Explore Kāpiti Great Ride MTB route



Monitoring and review

Accurate monitoring of open space requirements and trends is essential to ensure the District's open space network is kept relevant and useful.

Major issues that need to be monitored are:

- Numbers, demand and preferences for users of parks and sporting facilities.
- Resident satisfaction levels of the open space networks quality and quantity.
- Progress implementing the Strategy's Top Ten.
- Continual review of the network provision catering for the District's growth.
- Review of levels of service and the application across the District's network.
- Review of social, cultural (through kaitiaki monitoring) and environmental impacts on the open spaces network and their users.

It is important that regular reviews of the Strategy's effectiveness take place and refinements made to the plan as new information comes to hand.

Either directly or in partnership, Council provides facilities to support a range of organised sport codes.

6. Appendices

Photo credit: Bob Zuur

Appendix 1:

Glossary

Biodiversity – the variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Catchment – an area of land where water collects when it rains, often bounded by hills. As the water flows over the landscape it finds its way into streams and down into the soil, eventually feeding the river.

Ecological corridor – an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures.

Kaitiakitanga – guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship, trustee.*

Kaupapa – for the purposes of this document, kaupapa means a platform of values that inform views of how the environment should be managed.

Kāwanatanga – the authority of government, including local government.

Maara kai – garden, cultivation.*

Mahinga kai – garden, cultivation, food gathering place.* Mahinga kai refers to both the activity of cultivating, harvesting and gathering food as well as the place where this takes place.

Manaakitanga – hospitality, kindness, generosity, support – the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others.*

Open space providers – public or private organisation; owner or agency that provides public space for a human or ecological purpose to better society.

Rongoā – to treat, apply medicines; remedy... medicine.*

Taonga species – native flora and fauna that are of significance to whānau, hapū and iwi. Such species are central to the identity and well-being of whānau, hapū and iwi.

Tino rangatiratanga – self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, self-government, domination, rule, control, power.*

Waahi tapu – sacred place, sacred site – a place subject to long-term ritual restrictions on access or use, e.g. a burial ground, a battle site or a place where tapu objects were placed.*

Wānanga – to meet and discuss, deliberate, consider.*

Urupā – burial ground, cemetery, graveyard.*

*** Te Aka Māori-English, English-Māori Dictionary.**

Appendix 2:

Criteria for Land Acquisition

Council will consider the Top Ten Priorities of this Strategy when assessing land for acquisition as Open Space. Acceptance of land will be at Council's discretion and the land does not need to meet all these criteria in order to be considered for acquisition.

1. The land supports Priority 1 Y/N

Continuing protection, restoration, connection and enhancement of the natural environment, including the restoration of the ecology and biodiversity of the District and the remediation of contamination in open spaces.

Specifically:

a. The land contains ecosystems that have species endemic to the District or are threatened.
b. Council ownership of the land will support ecological connectivity at a landscape scale.
c. Public ownership of the land will best support the protection and enhancement of ecological values.

2. The land supports Priority 2 Y/N

Enhancing connections across our open space network, including improving cycleway, walkway and bridleway routes and ecological corridors.

Specifically:

d. The land provides or has the support recreational and ecological connections between other open space areas in the future.
e. The land is required to support CWB connectivity enhancement as identified on the network maps.
f. The route or connection can only be provided for through public ownership of the land and cannot be enabled through other means such as a right or way or easement supporting public access.
g. The land or route connection will support active transport options of community or districtwide significance. Ie routes to and from schools.

3. The land supports Priority 3 Y/N

Planning and managing our open space network following a partnership approach, to ensure iwi values are expressed throughout Kāpiti's open space network.

Specifically:

h. Iwi values in accordance with this Strategy have been taken into account.
i. The land is of documented significance to Mana Whenua and has value as public open space.
j. The land gives expression to Mana Whenua values or has an appropriate potential to be improved to support this.

4. The land supports Priority 4 Y/N

Designing and developing a network that enhances use and visitor experience, and maximises efficiencies. This includes designing a network for all ethnicities, ages and abilities that has multiple functions (where possible), and ensuring open spaces are affordable and compatible with their surrounding environments.

k. The land is accessible to the community including older persons and people with special needs.
l. The land is reasonably manageable with operational costs assessed in relation to Council's risk evaluation tables.
m. The land has significant multi-use potential or supports multi-dimensional open space outcomes.
n. The land is of a gradient appropriate for its purpose.
o. The land appropriately complies with CPTED principles.
p. The land is affordable and represents good value in light of limited resources.

5. The land supports Priority 5 Y/N

Mitigating the effects of climate change through the management and development of the open space network

Specifically:

q. The land will help support community resilience to natural hazards and climate change
r. The land supports Councils carbon neutral goals in its existing condition, or can be practicably improved to do so.
s. The land has drainage characteristics appropriate for its intended open space function.

6. The land supports Priority 6 Y/N

Ensuring Kāpiti residents have adequate and equitable access to open space now and in the future. This includes working closely with developers, the community and other agencies as our district grows

Specifically:

t. There is no public open space currently within the open space catchment currently (in accordance with District Plan rules and provisions).
u. The land fills a gap in open space provision within a specific community.
v. The land provides for an open space function that is or cannot otherwise be provided for by another agency eg. DOC, GWRC.
w. The land is in an area of population or employment growth creating a need for additional open space.
x. The land will improve the accessibility, function or amenity value of an existing park or open space.

7. The land supports Priority 7 Y/N

Involving the community through best practice community engagement, and enriching the network through a sustainable volunteer programme.

Specifically :

y. The land acquisition has good support from the local community and any potential reverse sensitivity issues have been appropriately taken into account.
z. There is good potential for community involvement in the care or enjoyment of the land.

8. The land supports priority 8 Y/N

Actively promoting our open space network to encourage enduring connections to the whenua and supporting community identity. This will include environmental education, encouraging responsible use, and attracting visitors to Kāpiti .

Specifically:

aa. The land supports access to and enjoyment of significant Kāpiti Coast landforms, features or landscape character areas
ab. The land supports community connection to the landscape and the identity of Kāpiti as a place for visitors.
ac. The land provides opportunities for education about the natural and cultural history of the Kāpiti Coast

9. The land supports priority 9 Y/N

Providing diverse open space types to support a good quality of life, the wellbeing of Kāpiti's communities and the health of the natural environment.

Specifically:

ad. The land supports a diverse and well distributed open space network in accordance with this Strategy and would not contribute to an over provision of land of a particular type.

10. The land supports priority 10 Y/N

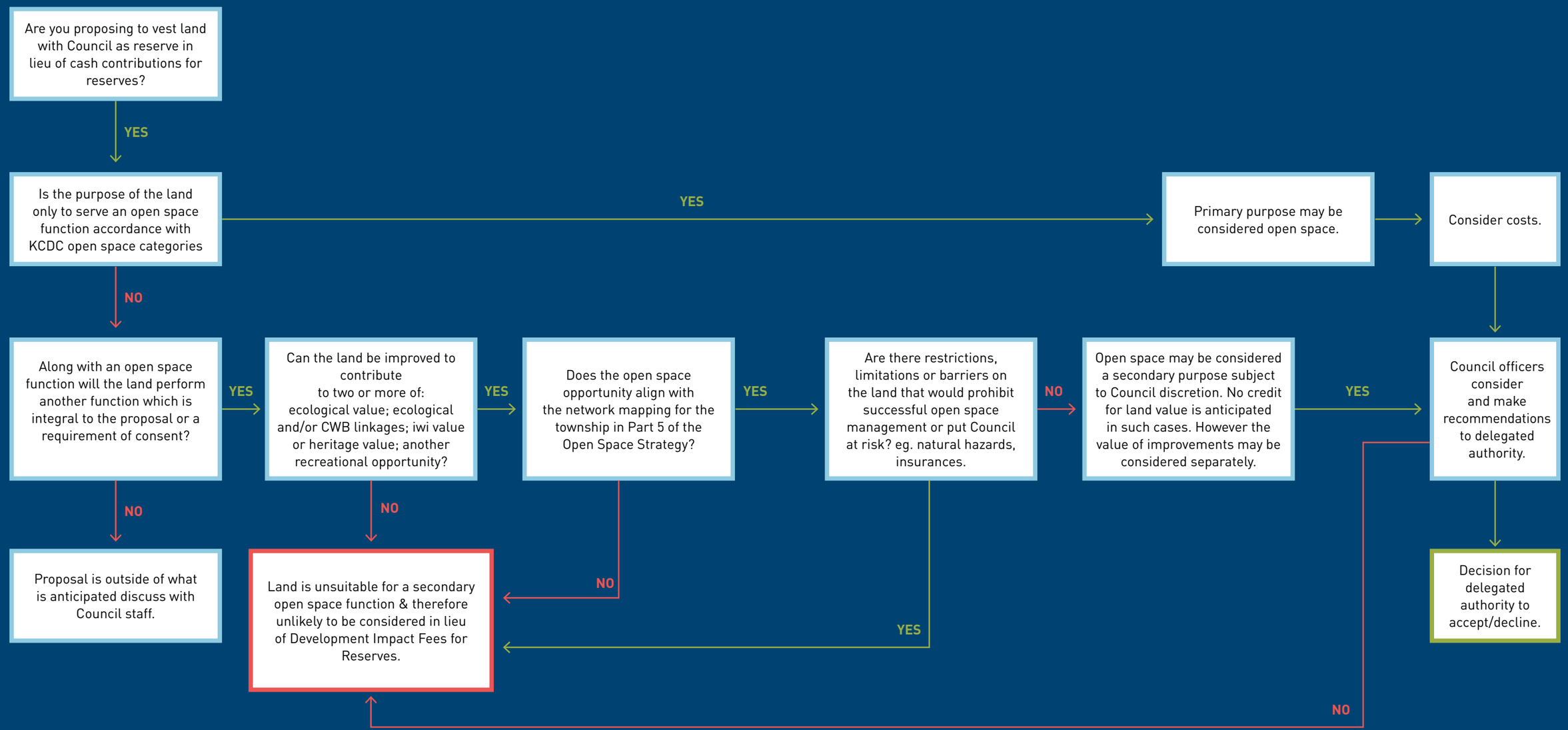
Collating, creating and sharing of knowledge to inform future decision-making.

Specifically:

ae. The land is accompanied by appropriate information regarding built and natural assets to support future management.
af. The land is free of hazardous materials or elements that may present a health and safety risk to the public.
ag. The land or features on the land are appropriately free of liability risk to council.
ah. The land is free of restrictions or encumbrances that may unreasonably limit its future use

Appendix 3:

Flow diagram to determine primary or secondary land function



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