

Appendix B: Assessment of Sites

An initial assessment of land suitable for freedom camping was undertaken across the district by independent parks and recreation specialists, Thrive Spaces and Places from February 5th-8th 2024. This assessment identified and evaluated sites against the criteria set out in the Act and included council land and a number of sites owned by regional and government agencies.

An additional assessment of council sites – excluding reserves (which are managed under the Reserves Act) was then undertaken, with council officers considering the local use of sites with regards to the factors identified in the Act. This considered the known historic, cultural, and heritage significance, and ecological issues supporting the protection of the area, and recreational and other uses of areas that may impact access and health and safety of users on sites.

With the exception of five reserves which are identified for freedom camping in the current Policy, the suitability for any of council's reserves for freedom camping will be considered and included as part of the process to update reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977, which is currently underway.

The review of the five reserves as part of the assessment and bylaw process identified that the car park opposite 54 Marine Parade and the Waikanae River Mouth – Tutere Street were no longer suitable for freedom camping. The reserves at Waikanae Park, Waimea Road and Field Way were identified to continue to remain as freedom camping sites. These three reserve areas where freedom camping will continue are included in the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.

The Assessments Table

The following table lists out the areas that remained in scope for assessment for freedom camping. It provides a simple description of the area and the reason for the decision to either restrict or prohibit freedom camping at that area.

Name of Area	Description	Assessment
Ōtaki		
Anzac Road	Anzac Road is the access way to the Ōtaki Cemetery. It is a narrow extension of a residential road.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of restrictive access. Prohibit.
Ōtaki Beach – large carpark Marine Parade opposite Tasman Road	The site is a large, sealed car park offering direct beach access.	Proximity to Ōtaki Beach township and the beach access makes this an ideal overnight spot. Minimal intervention needed as toilet/drinking water are within walking distance. Site could accommodate a few non-self-contained vehicles. Alongside other users, this site is suitable for larger camper vans providing easy access. Restrict.
Ōtaki Beach Surf Club car parks	The site includes the main carpark beside the surf club as well as the	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of the high volume of day users – both

	smaller carpark to the North of the surf club.	foot traffic as well as cars - and potential conflicts. There are potential access and health and safety concerns. Prohibit.
Ōtaki Bridge – South end (former SH1)	The site is on the Eastern side of the highway is an old rest stop and historical area, sealed car park with established trees.	It has sheltered areas from trees and ample turn around space, plus is less visible from the busy highway and bridge. Could suit people travelling on to board a ferry to the South Island. Adequate access. Restrict
Ōtaki Dog Park carpark	The site has a large, gravel carpark and is located next to a large, fenced dog exercise area between heavy industrial and residential housing.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the area itself is not suitable, with health and safety concerns. Prohibit.
Te Horo Beach – Sea Road	The site is located on the coastal edge between Te Horo Beach and the beach. There is an unsealed loop road (Sea Road) that connects either end of the site (one end where the public toilets are located and one end where there is a grassy reserve with picnic tables, bins and boulevards designating the parking areas	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of the sensitivity of the coastal edge and dunes area. Prohibit. Note that Sea Road between the toilets and the southern entrance is on reserve land.
Greenwood Boulevard Tennis Courts	The site consists of two sealed tennis courts, public toilets, and is fully fenced with a gate.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the area itself has some large trees that have been assessed as unstable thus presenting a safety risk. Also the area is isolated and not suitable for vehicle access. Prohibit.
Waikanae		
Mangaone South Road – end of road carpark	The site is a large gravel carpark adjacent to the DOC trailhead connecting Ōtaki Forks and other tracks. There are public toilets.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping camper vans because there is no access for camping vans, so prohibited. The area is assessed as suitable for tents so restrict for tents only.
Peka Peka Road – road end	The site consists of a large gravel carpark and boat launching area providing beach access for vehicles and walking access for visitors. The site is located at the end of the main road in Peka Peka Beach.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because it would interfere with the boat launching access, potentially causing conflict with users and would pose parking challenges for day users. This site has access concerns and could

		present health and safety risks. Prohibit.
Pharazyn Reserve	The site is located within rural lifestyle blocks and consists of two established gravel carparks with no designated parking spaces. There is a small playground, picnic table and benches, bins, public toilet, and a connection to the walking trail network. The site is also a KCDC Waster Water Pumping Station site with some overflow ponds directly adjacent to the parking area and playground.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of its local near wastewater treatment. Prohibit.
Te Moana Road Esplanade – beach carpark	The site consists of a sealed carpark with approximately 15 carparks, good beach access, is sheltered and protected from the wind.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of establish street parking resulting in access, and health and safety limitations. Prohibit.
Waikanae Beach: Field Way North carpark	The Field Way beach carpark is located opposite #106 Field Way. It is an unmarked asphalt carpark.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Waikanae Beach: Field Way reserve	The site consists of an unofficial parking area with no clear designated carparks or freedom camping freedom camping spots (limited signage). The area is adjacent to the beach, allows for beach access via the river mouth/estuary. The site offers public toilets and easily accessed from the road.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Waikanae Park	The area is adjacent to an active reserve, including sports fields, wrestling club, skatepark, pony club, public toilets, and is close to the Waikanae Pool. The sealed carpark has approximately 25 carparks.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Waimea Road Beach Reserve	This area is the North end of the carpark area extending North of the boat club.	The sites proximity to the beach and public toilets makes this a prime location for freedom camping. There is adequate turn around space and direct beach access. Camper van parking

		would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict
Waimeha Domain – Tutere Street	On Tutere Street by Waimeha Domain there are 10-15 designated street parking spots. Nearby are several shops/restaurants, public toilets, a playground, canopy cover and shade trees, and beach access.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of establish street parking resulting in access, and health and safety limitations. Prohibit.
Paraparaumu		
Arawa Street - road end	This site is located at the end of a residential street, providing access to the beach through established walkways. There are bench seats and bins provided.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the area and access is not suitable. Prohibit.
Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve	The site is an established carpark providing access to the Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve and walking trails.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because of its isolation and could present health and safety risks for campers. Prohibit.
George Street – road end	This site is a small extension of George Street providing access to the beach through an established path.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the area and access is not suitable. Prohibit.
Kāpiti Boating Club	The site is the asphalt carpark on the north side of the boat club where there are marked carparks.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because it is heavily used by boaties and tourists for the kapiti island visitations, and for servicing the large commercial boats. Putting freedom campers in the mix would create high health and safety risks. Prohibit.
Manly Street Esplanade – beach access	The site is located at the end of a residential street, is a formed access way to the beach including a boat launching area.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because there is no space to turn around, access is restrictive, and there could be health and safety issues with boaties. Prohibit.
Marine Parade – opposite #62	This is a formed asphalt carpark opposite #62 Marine Parade. It is marked with 17 carparks.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Marine Parade – opposite #68	This is a formed asphalt carpark opposite #68 Marine Parade. It is marked with 20 carparks.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable.

		Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Nathan Avenue – road end	This site is a small extension of Nathan Avenue providing access to the beach through an established path.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because there is no space to turn around, access is restrictive. Prohibit.
Ngapotiki Street	This site is a small extension of Ngapotiki Street providing access to the beach through an established path.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because there is no space to turn around, access is restrictive. Prohibit.
Nikau Palm Road	The site is a pull off area providing access to the Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve and walking trails. There are no designated carparks.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the site is sloped, on a busy corner presenting access difficulties and health and safety risks. Prohibit.
Takutai Street – beach access	Takutai Street is a narrow way providing limited parking off Manly Street for beach access	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because there is no space to turn around, access is restrictive. Prohibit.
Raumati		
Aotea Road – road end	This site is located at the end of a residential street, providing access to the beach through established walkways.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because access is inadequate, and space is too limited. Prohibit.
Hydes Road – road end	This site is located at the end of a residential street, providing access to the beach through established walkways.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because access is inadequate, and space is too limited. Freedom Camping would interfere with beach access, potentially causing conflict with users and would pose parking challenges for day users. Prohibit.
Garden Road	Garden Road is a minor road around the Raumati Marine Gardens which contains a number of marked parallel carparks on its south side.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the access is limited and there is insufficient space for safe camper van manoeuvrability. Prohibit.
Raumati Marine Gardens – Matatua Road	The area is adjacent to the beach, allows for beach access and boat access. There is a restaurant and bar, public toilets, walking pathways, playground infrastructure and the old public pool.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking by other users. Restrict.
Tainui Street	This site is located at the end of a residential street, providing	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because

	access to the beach through established walkways. There are bench seats and bins provided.	access is inadequate and space is too limited. Prohibit.
Takitimu Road – road end	Takitimu Road is a small narrow road providing access to several residential properties and access to the beach.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping. The area and access is inadequate and space is too limited. Prohibit.
Tennis Court Road – club carparks	The site is located along a quiet residential street, has tennis courts and a community building (with public toilets), a playground and two established paved carparks.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because it would create access problems for users of the community hall and playground. Prohibit.
Weka Road	The prohibited areas are the marked carpark areas between Weka Park and the Weka Road/Raumati Road intersection. There is street side parking along the Weka Road.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the access does not suit large vehicles and there would be health and safety concerns with visibility restrictions and manoeuvrability difficulties for other road users and potentially foot traffic. Prohibit.
Paekākāriki		
Ames Street Reserve	This site is an access way to/through a large reserve area with access to the beach. It is host to penguin nesting, has amenities such as picnic tables and pathways. The site has some large well-maintained grassy areas, trees for shade and a formed pathway/utility road. The site is also a part of the Heritage Trail.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because the natural values status and protection of the area. Prohibit.
North End The Parade	This is the beach carpark on Marine Parade opposite Henare Street. Parks are entered straight off The Parade. There is no entrance as such. 53 carparks are marked.	The area is a suitable size and location for freedom camping. The access is reasonable. Camper van parking would be restricted to continue sufficient car parking and access by other users. Restrict.
Robertson Road	This site is the parallel parking area next to the tennis courts where Robertson Road intersects with Wellington Road. There are approximately 12 formed carparks along the road.	The area is not suitable for freedom camping because it presents access problems with resident/club user interface, and there could be safety concerns with camper vans restricting visibility and manoeuvrability so near the intersection. Prohibit.