



Reserve Management Plan Preliminary Consultation 2025

Community feedback summary

Background

Council manages and maintains over 130 parks and reserves on your behalf – from large playgrounds, sportsgrounds, and freshwater esplanades and native bush scenic reserves to pocket-sized parks and smaller neighbourhood green spaces.

Reserve Management Plans contain our community's vision for a reserve or group of reserves and set out objectives, policies and rules that guide their use, management, protection or development.

From August to October 2025, Council asked for initial ideas that we can include when preparing the draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP), this document is a summary of the feedback gathered.

Note this wasn't a formal consultation – that will come later when we'll ask for submissions and hold hearings on the proposed plan.

What you told us

Over 190 people shared their thoughts on what matters most in our parks and reserves across the Kāpiti Coast District.

The feedback we received will help shape how Council manages, protects, and plans for these important places through the new draft Reserve Management Plan.

People told us reserves are important to them for environmental protection, recreation, and community spaces, places to connect, play, exercise and restore wellbeing.

Who we heard from

- Responses came from across Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati, Paekākāriki, and Kāpiti Island.
 - Most participants were aged 45–64 or 64+ years old, with some input from younger residents and community groups.
 - Many people provided multiple comments, covering a range of themes and values.
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Key themes from your feedback

Nature and environment

People care deeply about protecting the environment, restoring ecosystems, improving water quality, and supporting native planting and pest control.

“Native bush and waterways need more protection.”

“We need to focus on pest control and restoration.”

“Wetlands are important for wildlife and need to be looked after.”

Recreation and access

Access, play, and connection were major talking points. Communities want well-maintained walking tracks, play areas for all ages, and good facilities that support recreation close to home that are accessible for all ages and abilities.

“More walking tracks that link reserves together.”

“Love the new play areas, but more shade and seating needed.”

“A playground brings families together; keep them fun and safe.”

Green spaces for mental and physical wellbeing

Accessible green spaces are recognised as places essential to the wellbeing of residents, contributing to mental and physical health improvements.

“People's physical and mental health depend on their access and proximity to natural green outdoor spaces.”

“...parks and reserves will become ever more important for health & well-being with higher density housing. Parks and reserves should offer unique opportunities for recreation & fitness and the opportunity to enjoy nature.”

Community and connection

Reserves are seen as the heart of local communities, places to gather, reflect on local identity and connections to the land, and share space with others.

“Dog areas help people connect — they're important.”

“It's great to have places for all ages to use together.”

Care and management

People want reserves that are safe, tidy, and well-looked-after. Maintenance, safety, and careful planning were common priorities.

“The parks need regular maintenance — some are overgrown.”

“Safety lighting would make it more comfortable to visit.”

“Keep signs up to date and tidy.”

What we value most

Across all submissions, a few strong values stood out:

- Environment: Caring for nature and biodiversity.
- Accessibility: Ensuring everyone can safely reach and enjoy parks.
- Community: Spaces that bring people together and build belonging.
- Amenity: Keeping reserves welcoming, attractive, and functional.
- Safety: Feeling comfortable and secure when visiting reserves.

Out of scope feedback

Some feedback was valuable but fell outside what a Reserve Management Plan can directly address. These ideas have been noted and may be considered through other Council processes.

Examples include:

- Requests for new facilities or infrastructure outside existing reserves.
- Private property, roading, or drainage matters.
- By law enforcement issues (e.g., dogs, littering).
- Operational service levels such as mowing schedules.

What happens next

The feedback will inform the draft Reserve Management Plan, which will:

- Reflect the key themes and community values shown above.
- Guide Council in making reserve management decisions.
- The draft will be notified for public consultation in late-2026.
- You will have the opportunity to make a formal submission and attend a hearing should you wish to, at this next stage.

Thank you!

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who took the time to share their views.

Together we're helping to shape the future of Kāpiti's parks and reserves.