

**Chairperson and Committee Members**  
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8 MAY 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**RELEASE OF DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR  
OTAIHANGA EAST RIVERSIDE RESERVE AREA FOR  
CONSULTATION**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report presents the Draft Reserve Management Plan (Appendix 1) for the recently acquired reserve area at Otaihanga East Riverside (the park), and seeks approval for its release for consultation.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 Council exercised its powers under the 2009/10 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) policy on strategic land acquisition and purchased two adjoining land parcels south of the Waikanae River for a recreation reserve in 2011/12. The Council publically advertised its intention to declare the land a reserve in September 2012. There was only one submission and it was in support.
- 4 The park was gazetted a Recreation Reserve in 2013, the gazette notice was received in May 2013 and lodged against the Certificate of Title in August 2013. The park is owned freehold and administered by Council. The park is approximately 60ha and is centrally located within the district, it is considered a district-wide park.
- 5 All gazetted recreation reserves require a management plan under the Reserves Act 1977 (The Act).
- 6 Section 17 of the Act includes general principles to have regard to in administering recreation reserves and Section 41 of the Act outlines responsibilities for Councils in preparation of reserve management plans. Council is to prepare a reserve management plan within five years of the gazetting of a park. The preparation of a reserve management plan includes a public consultation process to determine what use and enjoyment the community would like the park to provide, and the levels of service of these developments.
- 7 Council has the delegation to approve a reserve management plan for the park. Council purchased the land from private ownership, it was not derived from Crown land, and the terms of vesting of the land mean Council can approve the reserve management plan as long as a copy of the plan is provided to the Minister of Conservation.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- 8 A draft Reserve Management Plan has been prepared as an information document for consultation purposes and includes:
  - specific information about the existing reserve area;
  - the strategic vision for which Council purchased the land;
  - references to legislative and regulative requirements and
  - examples of activities and policies.
  
- 9 The process for preparation of this draft Reserve Management Plan included the following:
  - Organising a focus group with representation from various interest groups to provide guidance. The focus group included representation from Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Sport Wellington, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Transpower and Councillors representing neighbours, volunteer groups, sports and park management. Three meetings were held between 14 March - 27 August 2013;
  - Gathering of specific information including biodiversity, sports, cycle, walk and bridle (CWB) paths from council staff;and
  - An investigation of waahi tapu in the park. This was completed in 2013 as part of the district wide waahi tapu study.
  
- 10 This draft document has been prepared under guidance of representatives of the various interest groups. The current draft is the result of changes and suggestions from the focus group.
  
- 11 During preparation of the draft Reserve Management Plan Council was briefed and comments were received on the development of the reserve management plan, day to day management of the park and the park naming.
  
- 12 The Act requires a two month consultation period for draft Reserve Management Plans. It is planned to commence this in May with completion in July. The information received from the community will help Council to determine the development and use of the park. The Paraparaumu/Raumati and Waikanae Community Boards have a direct interest in the park and are required to recommend the final Reserve Management Plan to Council for adoption.
  
- 13 This draft will form part of a package aimed to gather feedback and expectations of the reserve from Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, the Paraparaumu/Raumati and Waikanae Community Boards and the public (including interest groups). Comments, submissions and recommendations will be captured and analysed to identify what people want to happen in the park.
  
- 14 The resulting information will be used to prepare a Reserve Management Plan, which once finalised will go to the Community Boards for recommendation to Council.
  
- 15 Preparation of the Reserve Management Plan that follows this consultation round may be different from this draft for consultation. The final reserve management plan recommended for adopting will have a regulatory function for the development and use of the park. The reserve management plan defines what activities are permitted, require authorisation and prohibited on the park. These will require consideration by Council.

- 16 This report provides a copy of the draft Reserve Management Plan for the Otaihangā East Riverside Reserve Area and seeks approval for its release to commence a formal consultation process.
- 17 A separate process for naming the park has been undertaken, running parallel with the Reserve Management Plan process. Advice has been received that a recommendation from Iwi for a name for the park is imminent. Recommendations for a park name will also be invited from the community during the public consultation process. Following public consultation a report with recommendations for the park name will be put forward to Council for a decision.
- 18 A Development Plan will be required and will be formulated during 2014/15 once the Reserve Management Plan is finalised. The Development Plan will include concept plans and priorities for possible developments to realise the objectives and policies of the Reserve Management Plan.

## Financial Considerations

- 19 There are minor direct financial considerations with preparation of a draft management plan for consultation. The consultation process will attract small costs including advertising and printing and possibly hall or marquee hire and can be accommodated from existing budget.
- 20 An adopted Reserve Management Plan will define what activities are permitted, require authorisation or are prohibited on the park. It will outline what Council's responsibilities are for monitoring and managing activities as well as what assets Council may provide in general and the respective levels of service. These activities will generate operational costs.
- 21 The Reserve Management Plan will provide the framework for a Development Plan. The Development Plan will outline and map specific developments on site. Some of these developments may be private. Council developments will be aligned with the Long Term Plan, Annual Plan and Asset Management Plan in which projects will be identified and budgeted.

## Legal Considerations

- 22 The Reserve Management Plan has been prepared as required in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

## Delegation

- 23 The Environment and Community Development Committee has the authority to make this decision under Section B.1, clause 7.3 of the Governance Structure 2013-2016 Triennium has delegation for Parks and Reserves:

*“Authority to exercise functions, powers and duties of the Council under the Reserves Act 1977 including those delegated from the Minister of Conservation, or any other statute, regulation or bylaw relating to the management and control, maintenance and operation of parks and reserves, except as delegated to Community Boards or officers.*

## Consultation

- 24 This report seeks approval to release the draft Reserve Management Plan for the park for consultation purposes. As such there has been limited consultation in the preparation of this document.
- 25 A focus group with representatives of various agencies provided guidance during the preparation of the Draft Management Plan. The focus group included representation from Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Sport Wellington, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Transpower and Councillors representing neighbours, volunteer groups, Keep Paraparaum/Raumati Beautiful, sports and park management.

## Policy Implications

- 26 There are no policy implications arising from the release of the Draft Reserve Management Plan for consultation purposes.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 27 Representatives from Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai who are mana whenua were on the focus group during preparation of the draft Reserve Management Plan.

## Publicity Considerations

- 28 A letter and the draft plan is required to go to the two Community Boards, interest groups, neighbours and public who have expressed interest. The package is also to be made available at libraries, service centre desks and on Council's website. Advertising is required to engage members of the public who have not yet expressed an interest.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 29 That the Committee approves the attached draft Reserve Management Plan for release for consultation from mid May to mid July 2014.

**Report prepared by:**

**Approved for submission by:**

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## ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 Otaihanga East Riverside Reserve Area - Draft Reserve Management Plan