



TE ATIAWA PARK Management Plan



KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**TE ATIAWA PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

August 1993

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PREFACE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kapiti Coast District Council's Parks and Recreation Department is formulating a comprehensive set of management plans for its public reserves. Preparation of these plans enables the Council and the Department to review current management practices and determine future management strategies for individual reserves. It will also assist in identifying priorities and planning the future allocation of resources between the Council's numerous reserves.
- 1.2 Public consultation is an important part of the project, as reserve management needs to be responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. In November 1992, the Council advertised its intention to prepare the first fifteen management plans and invited the public to submit suggestions and concerns for the drafting stage. Draft Plans were then prepared and further public comment invited in April 1993. The concerns and suggestions expressed in the submissions are reflected in the final Management Plans. The Council thanks all those who made submissions for their valuable contribution.

2.0 Management Plans

- 2.1 A Management Plan is a working document which sets out the objectives and policies of management and how these should be achieved. It also records changes and additional information as it becomes available.

Management Plans provide a framework within which all future management will be carried out subject only to review at defined intervals, usually five years. A Management Plan sets out the principles governing the management of an area in a way which will be readily understood by those whose actions or interests will be affected by the plan; if the plan is not understood it will be set aside and ignored.

Management Plans should be the foundation on which all future management practices are based. Simply to record what is currently being done would be to evade the challenge of re-examining current practices.

- 2.2 A Management Plan has several requirements:
 - (i) It must be comprehensive. Omission of some aspects may give rise to ambiguity and misinterpretation.
 - (ii) It must be practical and it must permit some flexibility yet within prescribed limits. Too rigid prescriptions may be self-defeating.
 - (iii) It must be clear, concise and easy to understand, conveying its message in the simplest yet most effective way.

- (iv) To remain appropriate, it must provide for review so that changed or changing circumstances maybe taken into account.

2.3 A comprehensive Management Plan is a means of ensuring continuity of management. It is also a means of explaining to the general public the reasons behind the decisions made by the Kapiti Coast District Council.

2.4 While a Management Plan provides the overall direction for ongoing management, there is generally a need for an annual programme of special works to be drawn up and priorities assigned. An effective way for this to be achieved is for a management schedule to be prepared which would be updated annually and would be available to the public. The management schedule should specifically cover two aspects:

- (i) A description of the special works to be completed in the year.
- (ii) A budget with specific costings of works to be completed in that year.

3.0 Management Plan Format

3.1 The Management Plan begins with a basic description of the reserve and its uses. This is by no means exhaustive and additional descriptive information is included where necessary in the later Policy sections. The Aim(s) and Objectives of the Management Plan are then identified, followed by a Policies Section which sets out the ways in which the aim(s) and objectives are to be achieved.

3.2 The Policy section has been written so as to provide a complete reference on each particular topic rather than having to refer to several sections to gain a complete understanding. Under each Policy heading relevant background information provides the rationale to the policy statement that follow it. The policies are grouped under three headings: Administration and Management, Management of Resources and Use and Development.

M W Cardiff
Reserves Superintendent

PART ONE: DESCRIPTION

1.1 Legal Description and Location

- 1.1.1 Te Atiawa Park consists of 9.8173 hectares of land comprising numerous parcels of land as shown in Figure 1 registered under Certificate of Titles 14A/830, A2/512, 560/159 and 535/231.

The Park was gazetted as a Recreation Reserve in 1971, but Lot 42 DP 14333 bordering Te Kupe Road is managed as a Local Purposes Reserve.

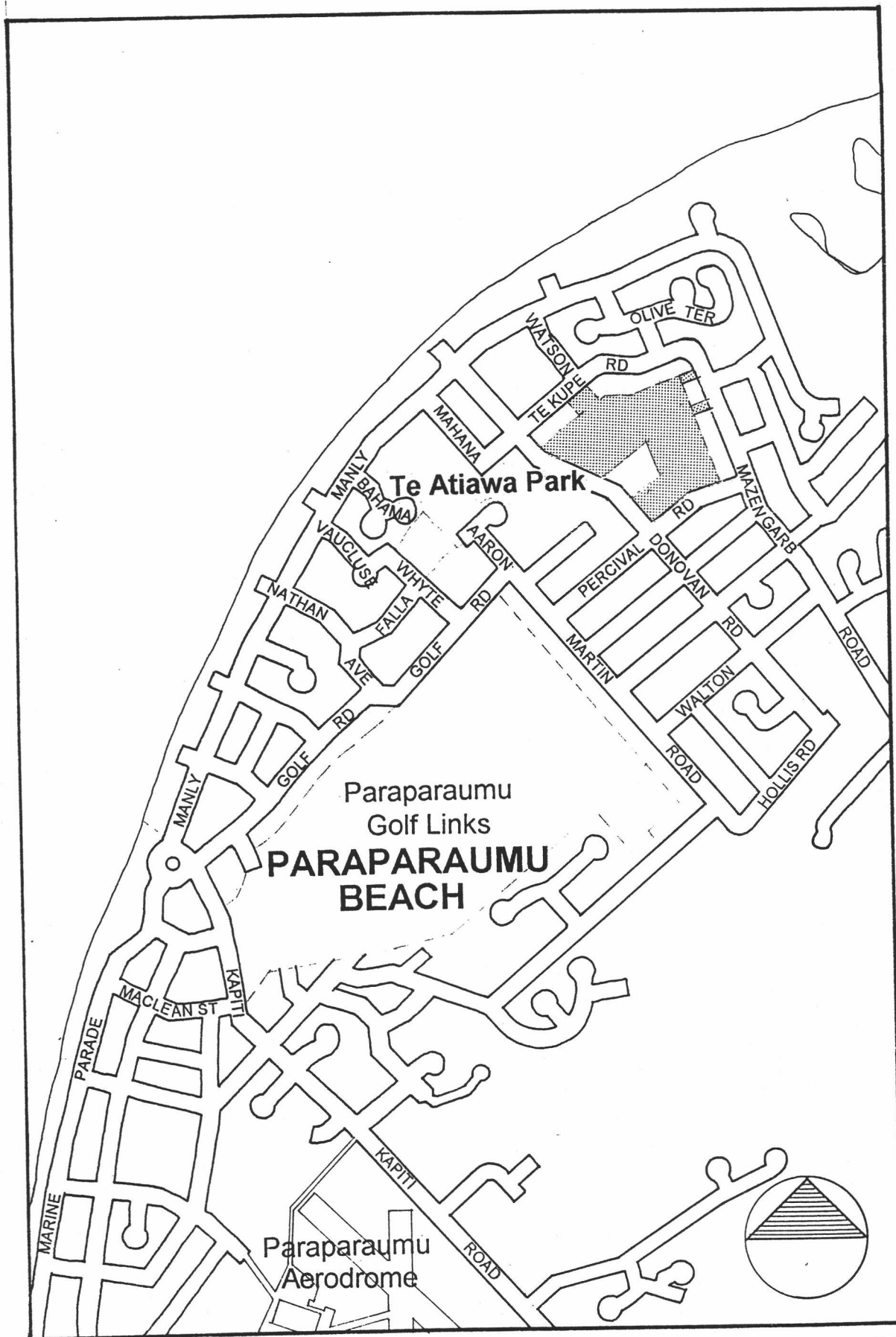
- 1.1.2 The Park is situated about half a kilometre inland from the Paraparaumu Beach foreshore and one and a half kilometres south of the Waikanae River Mouth. It is located in a residential area with boundaries on Percival, Donovan and Te Kupe Roads and two narrow access ways to Mazengarb Road.

1.2 Physical and Natural Features

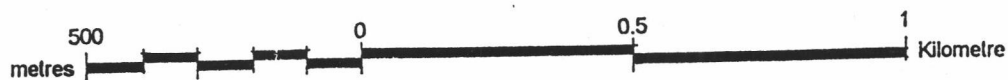
- 1.2.1 Te Atiawa Park occupies a flat site which is part of the sand dune lowlands of the Kapiti Coast. There are low sand hills with residential housing to the south-east but low-lying residential housing extends in the other directions.
- 1.2.2 The sandy soil is free-draining and prone to summer drought but two drainage ditches are necessary to keep the extensive playing fields drained in winter.
- 1.2.3 The climate is characterised by typically warm summers and mild winters. Rainfall is 800-1000 mm per annum, evenly distributed throughout the year. West to north-west winds prevail with quite frequent gales.
- 1.2.4 Most of the Park is maintained in mown grass. Other vegetation is scarce. Most significant of this is:
- mature *Pinus radiata* lining part of the north and west boundaries;
 - recent plantings of widely spaced pohutukawa on the Percival Road frontage and on the north-west side of the tennis courts;
 - widely spaced small specimens of macrocarpa near the softball clubrooms;
 - willow and poplar plantings along the stream/drainage ditch on the western boundary of the main playing fields.

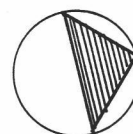
1.3 History and Present Use

- 1.3.1 The Park is named after the Ati Awa tribe who settled the Waikanae Estuary area in considerable numbers during the 1820s - 1840s. The largest pa, Kena Kena, was located in the vicinity of the Park. In 1961 the remains of a



LOCATION PLAN

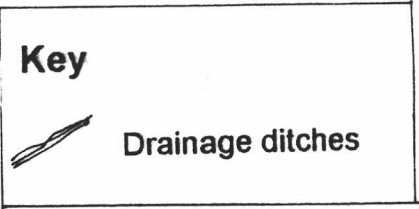




Legal Description

church built by the Ati Awa and Ngati Toa in 1843 were discovered during excavations for a subdivision. This site is located at the eastern of the two Park entrances on Mazengarb Road and is marked by a memorial.

- 1.3.2 The Park was gazetted a Recreation Reserve in 1971 but intensive development did not begin until the late 1970s. In 1978, an effluent disposal system was installed as a temporary measure in the eastern part of the Park. This was decommissioned in 1981 when the nearby subdivision was connected to the main sewerage disposal system.
- 1.3.3 In 1979, two rugby fields in the south-western area became operational and DP Lot 44594 was purchased. During 1980/81, this purchased land was included in the development of multi-use tennis/netball courts adjacent to Percival Road. The facilities building and softball clubrooms off Donovan Road were built in 1980 and 1981 respectively. In 1982, an all-weather cricket pitch was developed, the netball/tennis Courts Centre built and the playground upgraded. The following year, two further playing fields behind the courts were developed and an all weather softball diamond was installed on the northern side of the softball clubrooms.
- 1.3.4 During the early 1980s, the BMX track in the south-east corner of the Park was attracting a great deal of use for both local and national competition meetings. Local residents became concerned about traffic congestion, noise and behaviour problems associated with use. At the same time, there was growing local concern about parking congestion from the new netball/tennis courts. In 1984, to relieve these problems, parking restrictions were placed at the Donovan/Percival Roads intersection and the BMX Club was refused permission to host a national championship. Relocation of the BMX track was also discussed. Since then, use of the BMX track has declined and traffic congestion was relieved with the development of extensive off-street parking on Percival Road.
- 1.3.5 In 1988, the majority of the pine trees closest to adjacent houses were removed following complaints about shade and pine needles on those properties. A selective removal and replanting programme for the remaining trees was discussed at that time.
- 1.3.6 At around the same time, Lot 1 DP 42335 on the corner of Te Kupe and Donovan Roads was sold and the land developed in private housing.
- 1.3.7 During the 1990/91 financial year, an extensive car park was developed off Donovan Road by the Softball Clubrooms and three synpave tennis courts constructed beside the Courts Centre.
- 1.3.8 The main area of the Park (designated Recreation Reserve) is now intensively used by a wide range of sports groups and also accommodates a children's play area and kindergarten. A smaller area adjacent to Te Kupe Road is managed as a Local Purposes Reserve. This accommodates Plunket Rooms, a Girl Guides Association Hall and Scouts Association Hall.



PART TWO AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aim

- 2.1.1 The aim of this Management Plan is to manage and develop Te Atiawa Park for public enjoyment and recreation.

2.2 Objectives

- 2.2.1 To develop and enhance the Park's open space qualities.
- 2.2.2 To provide appropriate facilities to encourage compatible multiple use of the Park for both organised and informal recreation.
- 2.2.3 To permit community-based uses in a designated Local Purposes Reserve area that are compatible with and will encourage use of the Park.

PART THREE: POLICIES

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Administration

- 3.1.1 Te Atiawa Park is administered by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Kapiti Coast District Council under the direction of the Reserves Superintendent. Administration includes not only the organising of day-to-day management but also Park financing and long-term development planning. Specialist expertise may be sought on occasion to provide advice or specialist service on specific management issues such as tree maintenance or sports ground development.
- 3.1.2 As the Park is a public reserve the Kapiti Coast District Council recognises that liaison with the local community and user groups is an integral part of its management, enabling the Council to be responsive to user needs and local concerns. Interested and affected parties include sports clubs with formal use arrangements, local residents and informal Park users. Community groups who are interested in participating in special projects such as planting programmes should be encouraged. This can be of benefit, not only by extending Council resources, but by fostering community involvement and pride in the Park.

Policies

- i The Recreation Reserve and Local Purposes Reserve classifications shall be retained.
- ii The Park shall be administered and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Kapiti Coast District Council.
- iii Specialist expertise shall be sought when required to ensure a high standard of management.
- iv Local residents, Park users and interested community groups shall be consulted about management issues and their participation in Park protection and special projects encouraged.
- v The management plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended where necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

3.2 Interpretation of Policies

- 3.2.1 The Policies section of this Management Plan (Part Three) sets out the policies required to achieve the Aim and Objectives identified in Part Two. Each policy area has descriptive paragraphs (eg, 3.7.1) followed by specific policy statements (eg, 3.7, i, ii, iii, iv). The policy statements are to be read and applied in the context of the preceding related descriptive paragraphs.

- 3.2.2 To make the text of the Management Plan more readable the full name of the Kapiti Coast District Council is generally shortened to "the Council" or "Council".

Policies

- i No activity or action that is contrary to the descriptive paragraphs shall be undertaken without the express permission of the Reserves Superintendent and the Paraparaumu/Raumati Wards Committee or its authorised delegate.
- ii Where the text in the policies section (Part Three) refers to "the Council" or "Council" this means the Kapiti Coast District Council.

3.3 Adjacent Land Use

- 3.3.1 Te Atiawa Park is located in a residential area with numerous private properties directly adjoining it. Concerns can arise for local residents from any nearby public park including noise levels, user behaviour, fencing requirements and environmental effects of park vegetation. Open communication between the Council and local residents can do much to alleviate such concerns.

Policies

- i The Parks and Recreation Department of the Council shall maintain regular communication with local residents over Park issues.
- ii The Council shall negotiate fencing covenants with adjoining land owners as required to ensure the privacy and protection of adjacent land.

3.4 Leases and Licences

- 3.4.1 General policies about leases and related funding arrangements are currently being reviewed by the Council. The issue of exclusive uses in reserves and the Council's funding for these uses, which is a matter of community concern, is to be addressed in the review. The following points reflect existing policies and lease holders will be notified of any changes that affect them.
- 3.4.2 Leases and licences relating to public reserves are issued for uses considered compatible with the aims and objectives of the particular reserve. They are subject to conditions set down by Council policy including standards of behaviour and maintenance and are reviewed annually. The Council's Parks and Recreation Department may have particular requirements for lessees or licence holders to comply with reserve management standards, including maintenance of buildings, colour schemes for buildings, design and maintenance of equipment such as flood lights and clean-up operations after events such as sporting fixtures.
- 3.4.3 Council policy requires leases and licences to have common tenure periods and anniversary dates to aid administration. Existing leases and licences on

the Council's reserve lands are gradually being brought in to line with this policy.

- 3.4.4 Currently, leases are held by the Goldcoast Softball Club, Te Atiawa Courts Centre Inc., Plunket Society, Girl Guides Association and Scouts Association for their respective clubroom facilities.

Policies

- i Leases and licences shall be negotiated on terms to encourage use of the Park's recreational facilities.
- ii All leases and licences shall have common tenure periods and anniversary dates and shall be reviewed annually.
- iii Lessees and licence holders shall be required to comply with the Council's requirements for maintenance and management of buildings and equipment, rubbish disposal and management of special events.

3.5 Water Use

- 3.5.1 It is Council policy that water needed for extensive irrigation of reserve land should not be taken from the town water supply. Instead separate wells are to be drilled to supply irrigation needs. The taking of ground water is subject to a water right permit issued by the Wellington Regional Council, which specifies the quantity of water and extraction times allowed. Permits are issued for a specified number of years and must be reapplied for upon expiry.
- 3.5.2 A well has been drilled at Te Atiawa Park for summer irrigation of the playing fields.

Policies

- i Ground water extraction shall not exceed the permitted usage levels set out in the water right.
- ii Subject to continued need for irrigation at the Park, the water right permit shall be reapplied for from the expiry date of the existing permit.

3.6 Environmental Controls

- 3.6.1 The extent and type of public use and the condition of the Park needs to be monitored and appropriate action taken to ensure the enjoyment and safety of Park users and protection of the Park itself.
- 3.6.2 The general appearance and upkeep of reserves, particularly in suburban locations, is a common issue of public concern. This is reflected in the submissions about reserve management that were received in response to

the Council's notification of intention to prepare Management Plans in 1992 (see Preface). Aspects of mowing, rubbish disposal, weed control, drainage and ground conditions were frequently mentioned. High standards of maintenance are required to facilitate safe and enjoyable use and to promote pride in the Park.

3.6.3 The Council must also set an example of sound environmental management on reserves, including the control of noxious and invasive plants, control of noxious animals, skilled tree maintenance and planting techniques. Maintenance methods must be carefully considered and controlled to ensure the safety and protection of Park users and adjacent residential areas; in particular, the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers, and the use of heavy equipment.

3.6.4 In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to close the entire Park from the public to protect public safety or to protect the Park environment. For example, flooding, reparation of extensive damage (such as storm damage) or major redevelopment.

Policies

- i The Park shall be maintained regularly to a high standard and damage or environmental problems rectified promptly.
- ii Rubbish bins shall be provided at the carpark and all buildings and shall be emptied regularly. Additional rubbish receptacles and disposal shall be provided for special events.
- iii Activities that are damaging to Park resources shall be restricted while appropriate protective measures are taken or prohibited if incompatible with the Park's aim and objectives.
- iv In exceptional circumstances the Park shall be closed to the public, at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent.
- v Noxious animals, if any, shall be controlled and, if possible, exterminated.
- vi Noxious, invasive or unwanted weeds shall be controlled and, if possible, eliminated.
- vii The use of herbicides and pesticides shall be used as little as possible and shall be strictly controlled. Where particular safety concerns arise, local residents shall be consulted prior to use.

3.7 Signs

3.7.1 Signs are necessary in public parks to:

- identify places and routes;
- inform about public use and safety;

- in some cases, provide information of interest about the site or locality. (This is generally referred to as interpretation).

These signs are the responsibility of the administering body.

Two other types of signs are also to be found in Kapiti Coast District Reserves:

1. Signs used by lessees and licence holders. These may be to identify their facilities (eg. club room names) or may provide information about concession or similar operations (eg. swimming pool charges and opening times).
2. Advertising hoardings, usually erected at sports grounds to promote sponsors.

3.7.2 Well designed signs, used sparingly in well chosen locations, can be inviting and complement a park's image and intended use. Proliferation of different signs can, on the other hand, be obtrusive and off-putting. Signs in many Kapiti Coast District reserves have been erected on a rather ad hoc basis, with unco-ordinated styles and physically scattered messages. To remedy this situation, a unified Parks and Recreation Department sign system is to be designed for use throughout all reserves and a replacement programme implemented as resources permit. There are several advantages:

- A well designed standard sign system will enhance the Council's public image.
- Standard construction is more economic and allows for rapid replacement of damaged signs.
- The effectiveness of existing signs can be reviewed during the replacement programme and new signs adapted to current needs.

The sign system will also provide guidelines about the design of signs used by lessees and licence holders which will relate to size, style and colour schemes.

3.7.3 Generally, advertising hoardings are not to be permitted on public reserves. However, where a sports club relies upon sponsorship to fund fixtures or facilities, temporary advertising signs may be permitted for specified fixtures provided that they are appropriate to the event, do not obstruct the public or damage the Park and are removed promptly after the fixture.

3.7.4 At Te Atiawa Park, integrated Park name and information signs are needed at all car park and pedestrian entry points. Given the historic significance of the site, some simple motif or detailing may be appropriate which picks up on the design of the memorial at the Mazengarb Road entrance.

There is also potential for interpretation about former Maori settlement of the site (see 3.9 below).

Policies

- i Sign requirements shall be reviewed and signs upgraded in accordance with a standard Council Parks and Recreation Department sign system.
- ii Signs shall be designed, constructed and maintained to a high standard.
- iii Advertising hoardings shall be permitted on a temporary basis only, at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent.

MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

3.8 Landscape Character

3.8.1 At present Te Atiawa Park is a wide expanse of open ground with little in the way of natural features to provide a distinctive character.

3.8.2 The three most distinctive features are:

- the mature stands of pine in the north-western area which provide visual relief from the flat open ground and are a local landmark;
- the drainage ditch running north/south at the western end of the playing fields which, though straightened now, may previously have been a natural stream as it carries water through the year. It is also the basis of an open space link south to Kena Kena School and Kena Kena Park and north to the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.
- the private property that juts into the Park off Donovan Road which breaks up the expanse of playing fields into two distinct areas and provides some useful vegetation structure adjacent to the boundaries.

3.8.3 Visual appeal and recreation use would be greatly enhanced by a well planned planting programme to provide shelter, shade and visual structure. Given the need to keep much of the Domain in open ground for sports use, much of this planting will be confined to boundaries, which will also help to screen unsightly boundary fences and bare parking areas. If possible, some planting should be brought into the playing field area, especially where the site "pinches" in at the hockey fields to relieve the wide open spaces.

3.8.4 Medium to tall trees are needed to have an impact in these large open spaces. A consistent range of species needs to be used throughout the Domain to achieve a unified character. There are several cues to species selection:

- the pines, which are already a significant landscape feature, are fast growing and well suited to the site. These should be planted sparingly as feature stands located where their height and pine needles will not unduly affect adjacent property;
- poplar hybrids and eucalyptus species which do well in sandy soils and are found in other reserves in the local area, for fast growing shade and specimen trees;
- the pohutukawa already found in the Park for slower growing specimens typical of the local coastal character;
- native species such as ngaio, karaka, griselinia, coprosma and pittosporum which once occurred naturally on this coast, for a basic planting structure, particularly where shrubby mass planting is needed.



The pines are a distinctive landmark which do much to relieve the wide expanses of the playing field.



Planting and less obtrusive colour schemes for buildings are needed to improve the visual quality of the Park's road frontages.

- 3.8.5 There is potential for the planting structure to be developed in association with pedestrian walking routes around the Park and extending beyond the Park, north and south, along the drainage ditch/stream. A planting programme is being planned for Kena Kena School further along the stream, and consultation with the School Board of Trustees would facilitate a consistent approach which would help to create a distinctive visual theme in the local area.
- 3.8.6 There is also potential to develop the main drainage ditch as a more "natural" feature with native plant associations which would relate through to the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve to the north (see 3.11 below).

Policies

- i A distinctive landscape character shall be developed, primarily by providing a unified framework of vegetation.
- ii A planting programme appropriate to local character and the active recreation use of the Domain shall be implemented as soon as resources permit.
- iii The planting programme shall be planned in conjunction with developing a walking/jogging route around the Park.
- iv The Kena Kena School Board of Trustees shall be consulted with a view to establishing a consistent planting character at the school and the Park.

3.9 Historic Site

- 3.9.1 The eastern entrance on Mazengarb Road is an historic site which is listed in Appendix 1 of the Kapiti Coast District Scheme (objects and places of historic or scientific interest or natural beauty). This is the site of a church built by the Ati Awa and Ngati Toa in 1843 which was associated with the Kena Kena pa. Remains of the church were discovered in 1961 during excavations for a subdivision. There is no visible evidence of the church but the site is marked by a stone wall supporting an archway of Maori carving, a memorial plaque and interpretative sign with information about the site. The memorial commemorates Reverend Hadfield who was a Founding Missionary for the church in the 1840s. The site is identified as Site Number 18 on the Kapiti Coast Heritage Trail.
- 3.9.2 Despite the formal archway, the site does not stand out on Mazengarb Road because the entrance is comparatively narrow and the scale of the archway is similar to that of adjacent housing. It also has little significance within the Park itself because of its isolation from the main open space.
- 3.9.3 There is potential to make more of this historic feature by:
- developing the road frontage as a more distinctive entrance with paving and planting;

- visually linking the entrance to the main Park by bringing characteristic Park planting in along the access way;
- integrating this entrance way with pedestrian access routes around the Park.

3.9.4 In the longer term, the historic theme could be developed further as an interpretative theme in the Park as a whole since this area was the site of significant Maori settlement in former times. For example:

- interpretation signage could be installed beside the "stream" with information about the Kena Kena pa and its association with the Waikanae River estuary which was a major food source;
- as noted in 3.7 above, the standard sign construction could be modified in line with this theme to include an appropriate Maori carving motif or similar site specific design.

3.9.5 Although most of the Ati Awa returned to their ancestral homes in Taranaki in the late 1840s, some remained in the local area. Development of any further historic Maori theme should only occur in consultation with local Maori.

Policies

- i The historic site on Mazengarb Road shall be protected and opportunities to strengthen its significance within the Park investigated.
- ii Opportunities to recognise and inform the public about the history of former Maori settlement as a Park theme shall be investigated in consultation with local Maori and the Historic Places Trust.

3.10 Vegetation

3.10.1 Apart from the pines, well established trees are something of a rarity in the Park. Therefore, the pines and other more recent plantings shall be protected and managed to maintain their health and longevity. Pruning should only be to protect public safety or tree health and must only be carried out by skilled personnel.

3.10.2 For some years to come, vegetation management will focus upon establishing a planting structure for the Park as discussed in Section 3.8 above. Mass planting of shrubby species at comparatively close spacings and group plantings of specimen trees is to be adopted so that visual impact is achieved sooner. Closer planted plants provide some shelter for each other and, in the case of shrubby species, will close over the ground sooner, reducing maintenance.

3.10.3 Plant survival and rate of growth is dependent upon thorough site preparation and regular follow-up maintenance for weed control, fertilising, watering and protection from damage while the plants are establishing. Expenditure on extra maintenance is more than justified by rapid results and healthy plants.



△ There is potential to enhance this historic site and further develop the historic interpretative theme about previous Maori settlement in the Park area.

The main drainage ditch ▷ has potential as an ecological and walking link to the Waikanae River Estuary Scenic Reserve.



- 3.10.4 The Council's Parks and Recreation Department has many reserves to maintain and limited resources to do so. Therefore, planting may have to be carried out on a progressive basis over a number of years. To achieve maximum impact, each year's planting should be concentrated in a particular area or areas rather than distributing plants thinly throughout the Domain.

Policies

- i The established trees in the Domain shall be protected and maintained for good health.
- ii Sound horticultural practices shall be applied to the maintenance of the Park's vegetation and tree pruning shall be carried out only by skilled tree specialists.
- iii A planting programme shall be implemented as soon as possible.

3.11 Drainage

- 3.11.1 There are two drainage ditches in the Park. One runs along the eastern boundary and is dry for much of the year. The other runs along the western edge of the playing fields extending beyond the Park beside Kena Kena School to the south-west and out to the Waikanae River Estuary Scientific Reserve to the north-east. This second ditch carries water all year round.
- 3.11.2 Submissions from local residents expressed concern about the state of these ditches: primarily maintenance of the banks and clogging of the ditches with debris including grass clippings from mowing.
- 3.11.3 These two ditches, particularly the more visible western one, should be managed for their potential amenity as well as functional value. They must be kept clear of debris and periodically dredged to maintain water flow and prevent stagnation. The banks should be kept clear of rank weed growth and where pedestrian access is not important appropriate planting considered to reduce maintenance.
- 3.11.4 The main ditch already has features which provide the basis for developing an attractive "stream side" walking route: amenity plantings of poplar and willow and, in places, areas of wetland plants typical of the estuary environment downstream. The tree planting should be extended along the banks and the wetland plant associations encouraged. There is potential to visually link this "stream" more strongly with the estuary environment by introducing a greater proportion of native planting along the Mazengarb Road end and beyond the Park to the scientific reserve.

Policies

- i The drainage ditches shall be kept clear of debris and rubbish to ensure clear water flow.

- ii The Parks and Recreation and Operational Services Departments of the Council shall consult over drainage management issues.
- iii The western ditch and its banks shall be managed especially to enhance its potential as an attractive "stream" environment and walking route.

3.12 Sportsgrounds

- 3.12.1 A high standard of maintenance is required to ensure the playing fields are suitable for competition play. Monitoring is essential to ensure that winter drainage and summer irrigation is adequate and to prevent inappropriate use and over-use.
- 3.12.2 The Council's Parks and Recreation Department undertakes the responsibility for maintaining the playing fields for sports groups but the provision of equipment including flood lights is the responsibility of those groups.
- 3.12.3 In line with its policy to encourage community recreation, the Council undertook the initial development of the tennis and netball courts. Maintenance of the paved surfaces and court marking is now the responsibility of the Te Atiawa Courts Centre Inc., however.

Policies

- i The grassed playing surfaces shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for competition play.
- ii The condition of the grassed playing surfaces shall be regularly monitored. Training sessions and sporting fixtures shall be restricted or cancelled at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent to protect the playing surface.
- iii Equipment used for sporting activities including goal posts, screens and floodlights, shall be installed and maintained by the ground users and, where the equipment would interfere with the next season's sport, shall be dismantled within 14 days of the end of the season.
- iv The synpave tennis courts and multi-purpose tennis/netball courts shall be maintained in good order by the Te Atiawa Courts Centre Inc.

3.13 Children's Play Area

- 3.13.1 The design and location of children's play areas should provide stimulating and safe play opportunities for a range of ages, with both play structures and open space for ball games and exploration. Where possible, site features such as varied ground forms should be incorporated into the design to extend play opportunities. The site should also provide an environment which encourages year-round use with adequate sunlight, shade, shelter and seating for supervision.

- 3.13.2 The play area at the Park includes swings, slides, various climbing structures and the BMX track. It is ideally located on the corner of Percival and Donovan Roads where it is clearly visible from nearby houses and the Kena Kena Rest Home. However, the site is very bare and needs planting of fast-growing shade trees to supplement the small, slower growing pohutukawa already planted.
- 3.13.3 In the early 1980s, the BMX track attracted large crowds for local and national competitions. This generated considerable local concern and pressure to relocate it. However, usage levels have since declined and the track is now considered to be a compatible use.
- 3.13.4 The play equipment was upgraded in 1989 but nevertheless a comprehensive review of its safety and design is required in terms of the New Zealand Standard for Playgrounds and Play Equipment 1986. Immediate consideration must be given to:
- the provision of appropriate safety surfacing under all equipment from which there is potential for children to fall;
 - detailed inspection for faults and damage.
- 3.13.5 The design, suitability of equipment and additional opportunities should also be reviewed to assess the need for longer-term upgrading. It should be noted that a range of modular play equipment is now available which is increasingly used in public playgrounds. This equipment incorporates a range of materials and colour and is designed to meet the New Zealand Standard specification.
- 3.13.6 Consultation with children and parents who use the playground is essential to identify use levels, needs and issues. Moreover, local participation in planning, upgrading and planting the playground is likely to encourage its use and foster neighbourhood pride in the Park.

Policies

- i The playground equipment shall be maintained to a high standard of safety and repair to conform with the requirements of New Zealand Standard 5828, 1986.
- ii Appropriate safety surfacing shall be installed under all play structures as soon as possible.
- iii The playground equipment shall be inspected regularly and thoroughly for damage and faults and any necessary remedial work carried out promptly.
- iv Trees shall be planted in the play area for fast-growing shade and shelter.
- v The need for upgrading the play area shall be assessed in consultation with playground users. Involvement of the local community in monitoring and upgrading of the playground shall be encouraged.

- vi The Building Department of the Kapiti Coast District Council shall be consulted about the design of any new play structures or alterations to existing structures, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Building Act 1991.
- vii The BMX track shall be retained while usage levels remain compatible with other Park uses and the local community.

3.14 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture

- 3.14.1 The design and location of buildings, structures, paving and site furniture can have a major impact upon the visual appeal of the reserve, either positive or negative. Many public reserves suffer from ad hoc development where poorly placed structures and unrelated styles and materials are unnecessarily obtrusive.

As a general principle, constructed features should be complementary to the open space qualities of a reserve, achieved by:

- design appropriate to the site and unified throughout;
- locations chosen to reduce visual impact or to enhance natural features.

3.14.2 Buildings

The buildings at Te Atiawa Park are of inconsistent style and painted in pale colour schemes which make them stand out in the Park setting. Moreover, they are placed starkly on site with little or no planting to provide visual settings. A co-ordinated colour scheme for all buildings in the Park is needed to give some continuity. The colour scheme needs to be of more recessive tones to contrast less with proposed planting with darker roof colours to set the buildings down on their sites. Planting around the buildings linking in with the proposed structural planting is also needed to integrate the buildings with the Park setting.

Proliferation of buildings must be balanced against the objective to preserve the Park's open space qualities. The need for and placement of new buildings must be considered in terms of:

- facilitating appropriate Park uses;
- whether the building will attract more use than the Park can withstand;
- the space required for associated access, parking, planting etc.
- the potential to meet additional needs through the multiple use of existing buildings.

3.14.3 Site Furniture

Site furniture includes such items as seating, vehicle barriers, and rubbish bins. Although small in scale, these elements can produce visual clutter so careful thought must be given to both their design and placement. Rubbish

bins, for instance, must be easily seen and placed where they will be used, but are less obtrusive if placed on existing structures or close to planting. The timber vehicle barriers generally used by the Council's Parks and Recreation Department are of an informal character appropriate to Te Atiawa Park, but can be dominant on open ground. Associated planting would reduce its visual impact, especially in both the main car park areas.

3.14.4 Boundary Fencing

Boundary fencing is a necessity at the Park to ensure the security and privacy of adjacent properties, but results in very stark edges around much of the area. Planting is required to screen boundaries.

3.14.5 Maintenance

Poorly maintained buildings and structures can detract from a reserve's image and attract anti-social behaviour such as vandalism. This applies not only to the standard of repair but to the cleanliness of changing rooms and toilets.

Policies

- i All buildings, structures and site furniture shall be of a high design standard and shall be maintained in a state of good repair.
- ii Changing facilities and toilets shall be regularly maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.
- iii The Council's Parks and Recreation Department shall endeavour to achieve unity of constructed Park features which complement the Park's character through co-ordinated colour schemes and consistent design styles appropriate to the setting.
- iv Boundary fencing adjacent to private property shall be maintained in a state of good repair and its visibility reduced with planting.
- v The addition of new buildings shall be subject to planning approval under the Kapiti Coast District Scheme and shall be considered against the objectives of preserving the Park's open space qualities and providing for recreation. New buildings, structures and site furniture shall be sited to complement the Park's character while meeting functional requirements.
- vi All new buildings and structures, and alterations to those existing, shall comply with the requirements of the Building Act 1991.

USE AND DEVELOPMENT

3.15 Recreation

- 3.15.1 Multiple use of public parks is a principle to be fostered wherever possible to maximise efficient use of resources.
- 3.15.2 The Courts Centre courts and building are used all year round for both tennis and netball but the clubrooms above the main facilities block are leased only by the Goldcoast Softball Club. Their history of use and financial commitment to the construction of the clubrooms must be recognised but should not be seen as the right to exclusive use. Sharing the club rooms with a winter sports group is to be investigated.
- 3.15.3 Although the Park is primarily devoted to facilities for organised sport, it must be recognised that it is also a valuable open space for informal recreation such as social ball games, walking and kite flying. Organised activities must be managed so that playing fields are also freely available for informal use including some weekend and evening times.

Policies

- i A compatible balance between the needs of organised and informal recreation shall be maintained.
- ii Compatible multiple use of the sportsgrounds, clubrooms and facilities block shall be encouraged.
- iii Events and activities of a recreational nature or value to the local community such as fetes, festivals and sports competitions shall be encouraged provided that they do not damage the Park, excessively conflict with recreation use or cause unacceptable disturbance to local residents. Such events shall be subject to prior approval of the Reserves Superintendent.
- iv Short term commercial use shall be permitted provided it does not cause damage nor unnecessarily conflict with recreational use and enjoyment of the Park. Such uses shall be subject to prior written approval of the Reserves Superintendent.
- v The Reserves Superintendent shall administer a bookings system for formal use of the playing field and facilities building and shall give notice of restrictions and cancellations by way of agreed avenues. (e.g. radio announcements).

3.16 Non-Recreational Use

- 3.16.1 The Local Purposes Reserve Area has been designated to accommodate community uses which are compatible with the Park and may encourage its use. Set off to one side of the main playing fields area, it is ideally suited for

this purpose but it is important that it is clearly identified as an entrance to the Park with unimpeded pedestrian access to the open space beyond.

- 3.16.2 At present, the area accommodates Plunket Rooms, a Girl Guides Association Hall and Scout Association Hall. In the event of additional uses being considered, compatible multiple use of the existing buildings should be investigated before erecting any more buildings so that the comparatively open character of the site is maintained.
- 3.16.3 A kindergarten is also located near the children's play area on Donovan Road. Although not in the Local Purposes Reserve, its discrete location on a boundary does not interfere with Park activities so the expense of relocating it is not warranted.

Policies

- i Non-recreational uses that have a community base and are likely to encourage compatible use of the Park shall be permitted in the Local Purposes Reserve area.
- ii The Local Purposes Reserve area shall also be managed as a public pedestrian entrance to the Park.
- iii The kindergarten shall remain at its present location within the Recreation Reserve.

3.17 Access and Parking

- 3.17.1 Te Atiawa Park attracts large numbers of people for sporting fixtures and there have been past problems with parking and traffic congestion on Percival and Donovan Roads. To alleviate congestion, parking restrictions have been imposed near the Percival/Donovan Road intersection and extensive off-street parking developed by the softball clubrooms and the Courts Centre. Limited vehicle access and parking is also available in the Local Purposes Reserve.

Parking needs and traffic patterns at peak times need to be monitored on a continuing basis and additional control measures taken if necessary. Development of more parking does need to be weighed against the objective of preserving the Park's open space qualities, however.

- 3.17.2 Pedestrian access within the Park is generally informal without formed paths or tracks. There is potential to encourage enjoyment of the Park and diverse recreational use by developing a walking/jogging route around it associated with proposed structural planting. This would link in with the existing walking route from Kena Kena Park along the "stream" to the Waikanae River Scientific Reserve.
- 3.17.3 Pedestrian access from the Percival Road car park to the playing fields is constricted to a narrow access way at the east end of the tennis/netball courts. Consideration should be given to rationalising access past the

Courts Centre building as well, as the site layout indicates that this is also an accessway.

Policies

- i Public vehicle access shall be restricted to designated parking areas to protect the Park surface and avoid conflict with pedestrian use of the Park.
- ii Parking needs and traffic patterns shall be monitored and additional provision investigated, if necessary.
- iii Development of a walking/jogging route around the Park shall be investigated.
- iv Where pedestrian use is damaging the Park's surface, paths shall be developed or measures taken to deter excessive use, as appropriate.

3.18 Controls and Prohibitions

3.18.1 Public parks inevitably attract activities which are incompatible with management objectives. Although the Council seeks to encourage multiple recreation use of the Park, it must impose certain controls to protect it from damage, maintain safety standards and promote its compatible use. The controls and prohibitions are a response to management problems that have consistently arisen over a period of years and are not simply a standard set of rules.

3.18.2 Two issues here require some additional explanation:

1. Prohibition of dogs

Uncontrolled dogs and dog fouling frequently detracts from the enjoyment of other users. This is particularly so in playgrounds and on playing fields where ground hygiene and child safety are concerns. The Council has, therefore, adopted a policy that dogs will be prohibited from these areas. This effectively applies to the whole of the Recreation Reserve in Te Atiawa Park. More effective enforcement in prohibited areas is also being investigated including prosecution under local by-laws, the possibility of signs giving reasons for prohibition in problem areas and increased public liaison by grounds staff.

Walking and exercising dogs is recognised as a genuine recreational pursuit, however. Therefore, dogs will be permitted on the through walking route along the "stream" provided they are on a leash.

2. Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism is, to a large extent, beyond the control of the Council. However, it is generally recognised that poorly maintained public areas tend to attract these kind of problems. High maintenance

standards and rapid repair of damage may, therefore, have some effect in counteracting such behaviour.

It is also recognised that this type of problem occurs less where the local community, including schools, is actively involved in park projects and management. Therefore, community involvement and consultation is another avenue which may be explored to reduce these problems.

Policies

- i Public vehicle access shall be restricted to designated parking areas.
- ii Dogs shall not be permitted in the Park except on the stream-side walk. This may be enforced under the appropriate by-law at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent. Dogs on the stream-side walk shall be permitted only if kept on a leash.
- iii Horses, golfing and other recreation activities which may damage the Park's surface or compromise public safety shall not be permitted.
- iv Littering and rubbish dumping shall be prohibited and offenders may be prosecuted under the Litter Act 1979.
- v The lighting of open fires shall not be permitted but portable barbeques may be used for special events at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent.
- vi Measures to reduce and, if possible, eliminate anti-social behaviour and vandalism shall be investigated and, where appropriate, actioned.

3.19 Development

3.19.1 Development, whether it is large-scale planting, new buildings or changed uses must be considered in terms of the Park aim and objectives and, specifically, the likely effects upon landscape character, adjacent properties, patterns and levels of use and opportunities to enhance open space qualities.

3.19.2 Development currently envisaged at Te Atiawa Park is an extensive planting programme and development of a walking/jogging route.

Policies

- i Only development that is in accordance with the aim and objectives of the Management Plan shall be permitted.
- ii A landscape plan shall be prepared for all significant development proposals.