



JIM COOKE PARK Management Plan



KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**JIM COOKE PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

August 1993

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Contents	Page No.
Preface	i
Part One: Description	
1.1 Legal Description and Location	1
1.2 Physical and Natural Features	1
1.3 History and Present Use	1
Part Two: Aim and Objectives	
2.1 Aim	2
2.2 Objectives	2
Part Three: Policies	
Administration and Management	
3.1 Administration	3
3.2 Interpretation of Policies	3
3.3 Adjacent Land Use	4
3.4 Leases and Licences	4
3.5 Environmental Controls	5
3.6 Signs	6
Management of Resources	
3.7 Landscape Character	8
3.8 Vegetation	9
3.9 The River	9
3.10 The Sportsground	10
3.11 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture	11
Use and Development	
3.12 Recreation	13
3.13 Access and Parking	14
3.14 Controls and Prohibitions	15
3.15 Development	16

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

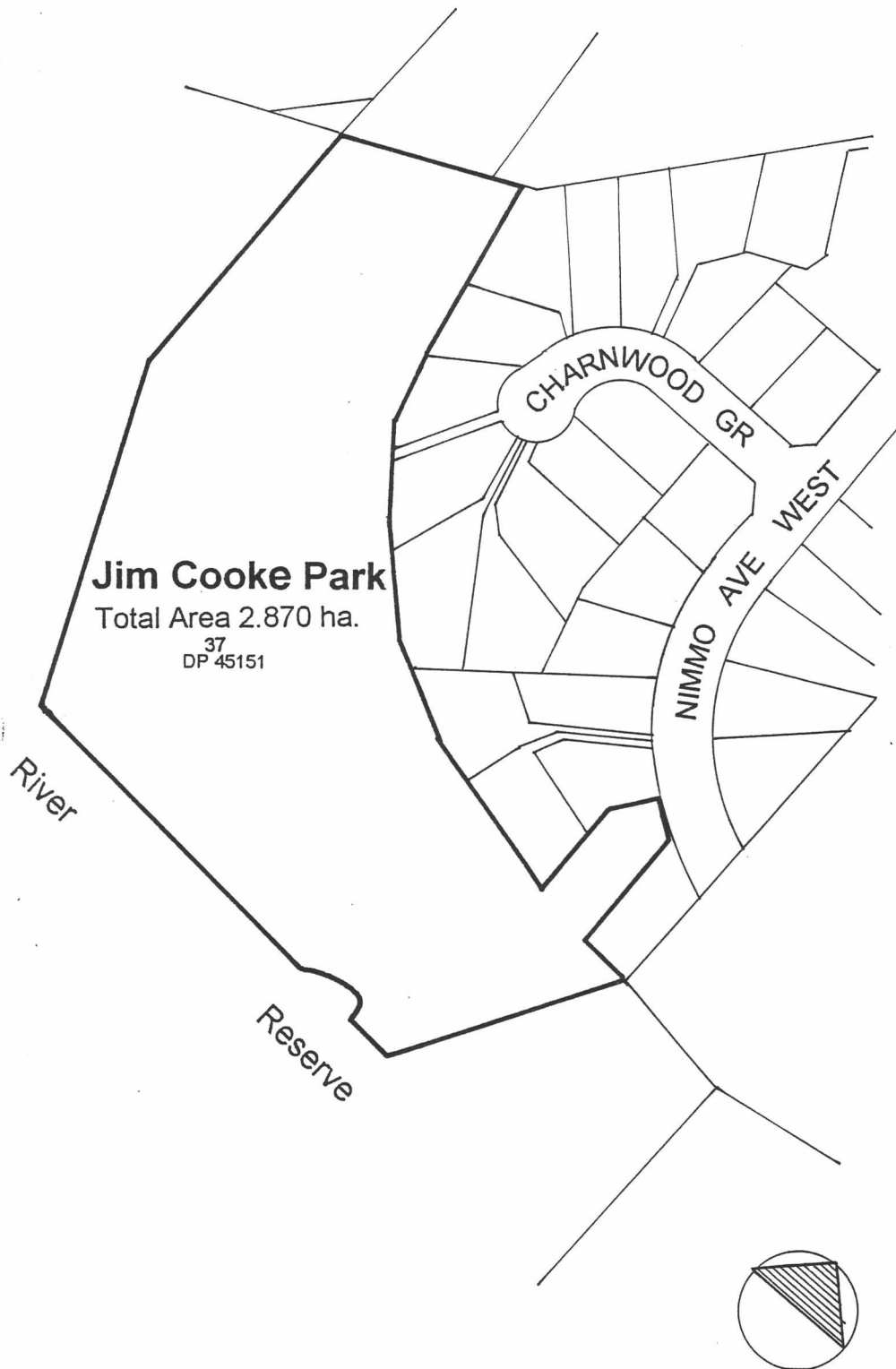
- 1.1.1 Jim Cooke Park consists of 2.87 hectares of land comprising Lot 37 DP 45151, Certificate of Title 983/42.
- 1.1.2 The Park is located on the north bank of the Waikanae River approximately two kilometres west of State Highway One. It is bounded by residential housing to the north with access ways from Nimmo Avenue West and Charnwood Grove. Otherwise it is bounded by undeveloped river bank land.

1.2 Physical and Natural Features

- 1.2.1 The Park consists of low-lying level ground with a stop-bank running along the northern boundary. This means that the Park lies within the flood channel of the Waikanae River.
- 1.2.2 Proximity to the river means that there is a relatively high water table and the river silt soil is prone to water-logging 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 The Park is maintained in mown grass with lemonwood and prunus planted on the north side of the stop bank. A line of tall black poplars skirts the river side of the Park.

1.3 History and Present Use

- 1.3.1 The Park was officially named in 1978 and has been used as a soccer ground for the Waikanae area since that time, being the home ground for the Waikanae Soccer Club.
- 1.3.2 Floodlighting was installed in 1981 and the toilet block was erected in the Nimmo Avenue access way in 1982. The floodlights were relocated around the eastern No. 1 field in 1991.
- 1.3.3 Today, the Park is used primarily as a soccer field with informal picnicking and walking opportunities in the adjacent river bank area.



Scale 1: 2000

Legal Description

PART TWO AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aim

The aim of this Management Plan is to manage and develop Jim Cooke 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.

PART THREE: POLICIES

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Administration

- 3.1.1 Jim Cooke 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 classification 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.

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- 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 Waikanae Community Board 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 Jim Cooke Park adjoins a number of private properties. 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 The Council policy requires leases and licences to have common tenure periods and anniversary dates to aid administration. Existing leases and

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

- 3.4.4 Currently, no leases apply within the Park but in the future the Waikanae Soccer Club will require a lease if it builds clubrooms here.

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 comply with Council's standard 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 Environmental Controls

- 3.5.1 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.
- 3.5.2 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.
- 3.5.3 Council must also set an example of sound environmental management on reserves, including the control of noxious and invasive plants, control of noxious animals and skilled vegetation management. 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.
- 3.5.4 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 attended to promptly.

- ii Rubbish bins shall be provided in high use areas 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 aims 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.

3.6 Signs

3.6.1 Signs are necessary in public parks such as this to:

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

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.

3.6.2 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.

- 3.6.3 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.
- 3.6.4 In the course of the sign review at Jim Cooke Park, location of entrance signs should be examined. A direction sign is needed at the Charnwood Grove entrance and the name sign at Nimmo Avenue West would be better on the road frontage where it will not be obstructed by parked cars.

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

3.7 Landscape Character

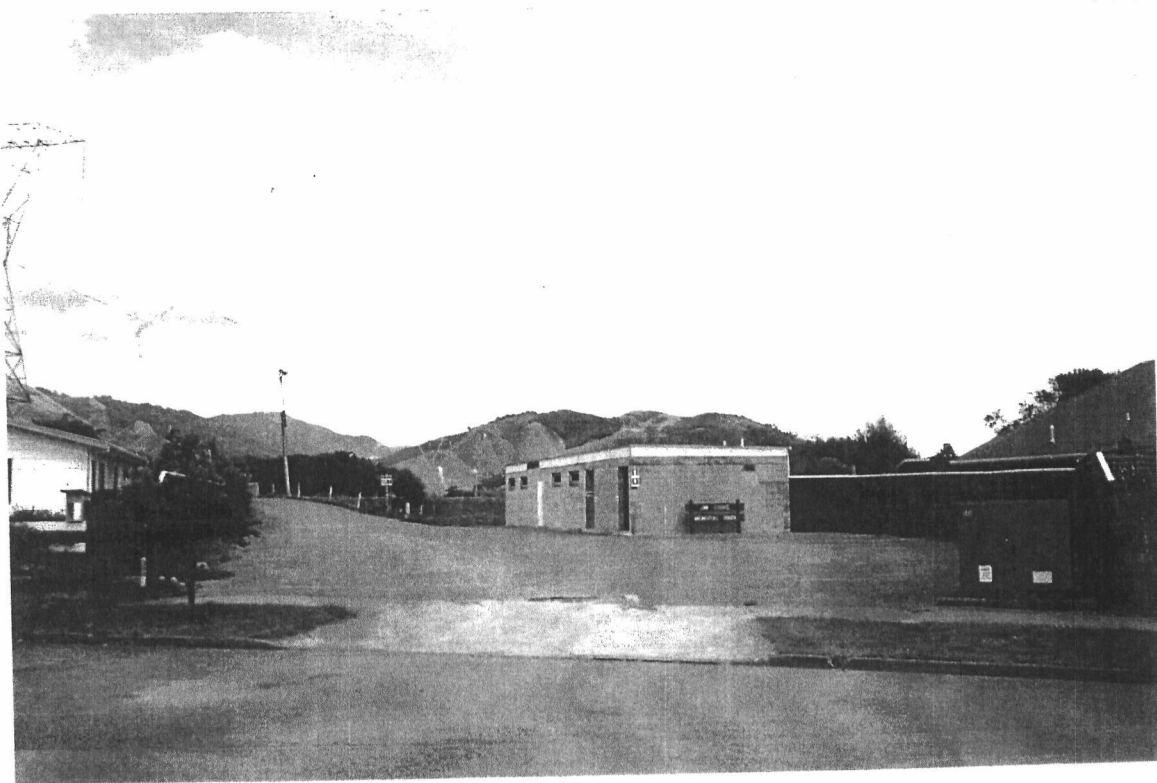
- 3.7.1 Jim Cooke Park is part of the riverside open space, kept clear of built development in case of flooding, which forms a green belt down to the coast in the area. The river bank environment has an informal character. Open grass areas are mown infrequently, allowing wild flowers and long grass to develop in summer. Willows and poplar characterise the riverside vegetation.
- 3.7.2 The Park itself is easily distinguished by its regularly mown ground contained within a post and wire fence which contrasts with the less regularly mown river bank environs. The line of black poplar on the river side of the sportsground is an important visual feature, helping to define the Park area and providing some shelter from the south. The stop bank screens adjacent housing and there is a rural outlook across the river. Consequently, the Park and adjacent riverside is secluded with an informal, semi-rural character.
- 3.7.3 The simple treatment of the Park is appropriate to the overall character of the river corridor but it could be better integrated with the river environment by removal of the post and wire fence which is a barrier. This would necessitate alternative methods of preventing vehicle and horse damage to the playing field, however. The passive recreational opportunities of the adjacent riverside should also be examined. Some picnic tables are located under the black poplars, accessible from an unsealed vehicle track beside the river, but these have little relationship to the Park area.
- 3.7.4 There is potential to develop the picnic areas with better defined informal parking and access points to the river. This needs to provide a transition in character from the highly maintained Park ground to the informal river environs. Alternative access control onto the playing fields could be incorporated into this with the use of strategically placed low vehicle barriers, more black poplar plantings to replace the aging specimens on site and areas of rougher ground, mown infrequently, to deter vehicles. Strategically placed signs to deter horse-riders is probably the only alternative to the existing fence. Development should recognise the floodway role of the riverside area (see 3.9 below).
- 3.7.5 The Nimmo Avenue West parking area and ablution block is very stark and opportunities need to be investigated to introduce some specimen tree planting within this confined area to provide a more attractive Park entrance.

Policies

- i The Park shall be recognised as part of the Waikanae River open space corridor and opportunities to better integrate the playing fields with the informal character of the riverside environs investigated.
- ii The visual significance of the black poplar plantings shall be recognised and appropriate measures taken to preserve this feature.



Alternatives to the existing fence are to be investigated to better integrate recreational use of the informal river bank environment with the mown playing fields of the Park.



Tree planting, appropriate painting of the toilet block and relocation of the Park name sign to the road boundary would improve the appeal of the Park entrance.

- iii Opportunities to enhance the potential for passive recreation by developing appropriately informal picnic and parking areas along the riverside shall be investigated.

3.8 Vegetation

- 3.8.1 The black poplars are a significant landscape feature at the Park but are showing signs of ill-health or decline. Their condition, remaining lifespan and measures to improve their health and longevity need to be assessed. At the same time, the need for replacement planting must be assessed so that continuity of this feature can be planned. The Rivers Department of the Wellington Regional Council must be consulted about any proposed planting to ensure that the river's floodway is not obstructed.
- 3.8.2 The stop bank must be kept clear of trees or larger shrubs as root systems can damage its structure. Any specimens of the existing prunuses and lemonwoods which extend on to the stopbank are to be gradually removed.
- 3.8.3 In the event of a passive recreation area being further developed adjacent to the laying fields, a less frequent mowing regime would be appropriate to the informal character of the river corridor. The growth of wild flowers should be encouraged in certain areas by mowing only twice a year.

Policies

- i An assessment of the black poplars shall be carried out and appropriate maintenance and/or replanting programmes established.
- ii All new tree or shrub planting within the floodway shall be subject to approval from the Rivers Department of the Wellington Regional Council.
- iii Sound horticultural practices shall be applied to the maintenance of the Park's vegetation and tree pruning shall be carried out only by personnel skilled in tree care.
- iv The stop bank shall be maintained only in mown grass and any existing trees or shrubs on it shall be removed
- v Mowing regimes for passive recreation areas shall be planned to maintain an informal "meadow" grassland character.

3.9 The River

- 3.9.1 Jim Cooke Park is located within the river corridor which means that it may be flooded from time to time. Reinstatement of turf and vehicle access after flooding must, therefore, be recognised as a periodic management task.
- 3.9.2 Any development must recognise that the Park and riverside environs are part of the floodway requiring generally unobstructed open ground. Higher

cost development such as parking areas should be located away from the river banks where there is potential for erosion.

- 3.9.3 The Rivers Department of the Wellington Regional Council is responsible for managing the river and is in the process of preparing a management plan for it. Therefore, liaison with the Rivers Department and reference to the Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan will be needed to ensure that management of the Park is consistent with river management particularly protection of the stop bank and prevention of flood obstructions.
- 3.9.4 Further downstream, river pollution is a problem affecting swimming opportunities. As Jim Cooke Park is a well used access point to the river, it may be necessary to include warnings about pollution in Park signage. This should be discussed with the appropriate department of the Regional Council.

Policies

- i The Kapiti Coast District Council shall co-operate with the Wellington Regional Council to further the objectives of the Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan, as required.
- ii The Kapiti Coast District Council shall consult the Wellington Regional Council about river pollution levels and take steps to inform Park users about any related hazard to swimming, if necessary.

3.10 Sportsground

- 3.10.1 The Park accommodates three soccer pitches used for both junior and senior play.

A high standard of maintenance is therefore required to ensure the ground is suitable for competition play. Monitoring is essential to ensure that winter drainage of this low-lying ground is adequate and to prevent inappropriate use and over-use.

- 3.10.2 There is no organised summer sport at present but the area is used for informal ball games during summer. If demand for summer sport arises, the need for irrigation and upgrading of the summer playing surface will need to be assessed.'
- 3.10.3 The Council's Parks and Recreation Department undertakes the responsibility for maintaining the playing surface but the provision of equipment including flood lights is the responsibility of the Waikanae Soccer Club.

Policies

- i The playing surfaces shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for competition play.

- ii The condition of the playing fields 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.
- iv The playing fields shall be upgraded to support summer sport if necessary.

3.11 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture

3.11.1 The design and location of buildings, structures, paving and site furniture can have a major impact upon the visual appeal of a 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.

3.11.2 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.

3.11.3 Buildings

The facilities building in the Nimmo Avenue West accessway is located where it is visually screened from the main Park area and protected from average floods by the stop bank. However, it is an unappealing structure which does little to enhance the stark entrance area. As stated in 3.7.5 above, some tree planting would enhance this area.

The Waikanae Soccer Club is proposing to build clubrooms above the facilities block. The design of this addition needs to be carefully considered as it will closely overlook the adjacent private property, will be visible from the river corridor and will visually dominate the entrance area. A co-ordinated colour scheme for both the clubrooms and facilities block will be needed to unify the structures.

Any other buildings are unlikely to be approved because:

- the only available space would be within the floodable area, and;
- the undeveloped open space character of the river corridor should be preserved.

3.11.4 Site Furniture

Site furniture includes such items as picnic tables, 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 Jim Cooke Park but must be used in association with tree planting to reduce their visual impact.

3.11.5 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. Removal of the derelict shed in the playing field area should be a priority.

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 storage shed shall be demolished as soon as practicable.
- iv The feasibility of screen planting beside the facilities building shall be investigated.
- v Boundary fencing adjacent to private property shall be maintained in a state of good repair and its visibility reduced with planting where the planting will not extend onto the stopbank.
- vi The proposed soccer clubrooms shall be designed to minimise the visual impact upon the Park and adjacent private property.
- vii 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.
- viii All new buildings and structures, and alterations to those existing, shall comply with the requirements of the Building Act 1991.

USE AND DEVELOPMENT

3.12 Recreation

- 3.12.1 Multiple use of public parks is a principle to be fostered wherever possible to maximise efficient use of resources.
- 3.12.2 At present, Jim Cooke Park is used only during the winter for organised sport. It is the only soccer venue in Waikanae and is used intensively for weekend competition matches and evening training. The Park is the home ground for the Waikanae Soccer Club which has installed the floodlights and proposes to construct clubrooms in the near future, subject to planning approval.
- 3.12.3 Although there is no demand for organised summer sport at the Park at present, such use in the future would be viewed favourably, to encourage greater use of the playing field facility. The history of use and financial commitment of the soccer club would be recognised but an arrangement for compatible sharing of facilities, including future clubrooms, would be encouraged.
- 3.12.4 The Park and its river environs are also attractive for passive recreation. The river corridor is popular for picnicking, walking, fishing and swimming, while the playing fields are used for informal ball games, kite flying etc. There is potential to extend the passive recreation opportunities here by further developing the informal picnicking areas (as proposed in 3.7 above) so that picnic groups can make better use of the playing fields for ball games etc as well as enjoying the river environment.

Policies

- i A compatible balance between the needs of organised and informal recreation shall be maintained.
- ii Compatible multiple use of the playing field, clubrooms and facilities block shall be encouraged.
- iii Further development of picnicking areas shall be investigated with reference to the recreation policies contained in the Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan.
- iv 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.
- v 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.

- vi 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).

3.13 Access and Parking

- 3.13.1 Vehicle access into the Park is from Nimmo Avenue West. This is a quiet, no-exit residential street so it is important that disturbance and congestion is kept to a minimum by providing adequate off-street parking. Limited sealed parking is provided at the entrance but most parking occurs over the stop bank on worn areas associated with the unsealed access track that runs along the river. This area is unsightly and prone to waterlogging in the winter. Therefore, in the long-term, parking within the river corridor needs to be rationalised into defined areas. This should be of an informal character using gravel surfacing (rather than sealing) with low timber vehicle barriers. To reduce visual impact, parking needs to be organised into a series of bays with screen tree planting (planting subject to approval from the Rivers Department, Wellington Regional Council).
- 3.13.2 The river corridor is a popular walking route facilitated by an unsealed vehicle track beside the river at this site which connects with the Nimmo Avenue West entrance. Any conflict between vehicles and pedestrians needs to be monitored and appropriate measures taken as necessary to reduce vehicle speed and/or limit the extent of vehicle access beside the river. The Charnwood Grove accessway is a secondary pedestrian access point leading into the middle of the playing field area. Although not a problem currently, there is potential for a short-cut route to be worn across the playing field here. To protect the playing surface, development of picnicking areas on the riverside should be designed to discourage this.

Policies

- i Public vehicle access shall be prohibited from the playing fields to protect the playing surface.
- ii Parking requirements within the river corridor shall be reviewed, rationalised and upgraded.
- iii Appropriate measures shall be taken to control vehicle access in the river corridor to minimise conflict with pedestrians as necessary.
- iv Use of the playing fields as a through pedestrian route shall be discouraged.

3.14 Controls and Prohibitions

- 3.14.1 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.

Two issues here require some additional explanation:

3.14.2 Prohibition of dogs

Walking and exercising dogs is recognised as a genuine recreational pursuit, but 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 Jim Cooke Park. As the informal riverside environs are ideal for dog walking, however, dogs will be permitted to cross through the Park provided they are on a leash.

3.14.3 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 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 Unauthorised vehicles shall not be permitted on the playing fields.
- ii Dogs shall not be permitted on the playing fields but shall be permitted to pass through the Park in order to reach the river walking route, provided they are on a leash.
- iii Horses, golfing and other recreation activities which may damage the playing surface or compromise public safety shall not be permitted on the playing fields.
- 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.

3.15 Development

- 3.15.1 Development, whether it is large-scale planting, new buildings or changed uses must be considered in terms of the Park's 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.
- 3.15.2 Development currently envisaged is the construction of clubrooms (which will be subject to planning approval), rationalisation of parking and low-key development of picnic areas.

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 rationalisation of parking and development of picnic areas.