

Otaraua Park

Development Plan

Adopted 6 December 2018

The journey so far

Otaraua Park will be a place with sport and recreation facilities that are distinctive, a good fit for the land and that support economic growth and the development and identity of the district.

Otaraua Park is one of Kāpiti’s largest recreation reserves and is named in recognition of the local hapū who have an on-going association with the park area as a mahinga kai. The land was purchased by Council in 2012 and a management plan for the park adopted in 2014. The purpose of Otaraaua Park is to provide sport and recreation opportunities in a parkland environment with high amenity values between the urban areas of Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Ōtaihangā. It recognises the park’s significant landscape and ecological values with potential to contribute to the restoration of an ecological corridor that runs from the mountains to the sea along the Waikanae River.

This Development Plan is a long term plan for the future. It’s important to have a plan in place now so that any development in the short to medium term doesn’t interfere with what might need to be developed in the future. For example, the plan includes ‘sports fields’ rather than naming a specific sport. This enables fields to be developed according to the demand in the future.

The Development Plan has been developed in response to the feedback we have received during community consultation including working with our iwi partners and key stakeholders. The plan is also guided by the principles included in the Otaraaua Park Management Plan (2014) and the Community Facilities Strategy (2017).

We started work on the Development Plan in early 2017.

The process of developing this plan has involved:

- talking to people and groups who would use the park for sport and other activities
- community engagement event and a fun-run at the park to introduce the community to the area.

- workshops and site visits with Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai and Otaraaua hapū to ensure the development plan gives expression to mana whenua values
- workshops with key stakeholder groups to develop and test individual activities at the park and their integration with the wider park design
- developing a plan that is flexible enough to respond to the community’s needs in the long term
- exploring long term access constraints to ensure road connections to the park will be fit for purpose as the park is developed
- investigating options for wastewater management at the park to test the assumptions of this plan
- engaging with the community on a draft development plan and receiving feedback from over 400 people as a result
- revising aspects of the plan in response to community feedback

What we have heard is that the Kāpiti community wants Otaraaua Park to be a place for:

- Events
- Play
- Sport
- Walking, cycling and bridleway connections
- Restoration planting and environmental enhancement
- Connecting to the river
- Health and wellbeing

Sports groups have identified particular requirements for their sport but understand that spaces need to be flexible and multi-purpose for them to be most viable.

The final plan provides a staged and flexible approach to the long term future development of park facilities.



Values and Principles

The park will be developed in acknowledgement of community values and principles. The priority is to create a park that provides for the whole community through the expression of some core collective values.

Cultural Values

Whakapapa

Understand and respect the whakapapa connection between the park and Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai and in particular Otaraua hapū.

Kaitiakitanga

Provide opportunities for people to develop kaitiaki skills and to learn and share matauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), particularly in relation to biodiversity, ecosystems and ethnobiology.

Rongoā & Hauora

Create a place of wellbeing and healing for people and the environment, enhancing and supporting the healing properties of our natural resources.

Mauri

Recognise and respect the life-force and energy associated with the natural environment, particularly the river and waterways.

Waikanaetanga

Give expression to the peace and humility that we experience through interaction with the natural world.

Design Principles

Sustainability

Balance ecological, social and economic considerations throughout the development of the park.

Wellbeing

Acknowledge and enhance linkages between community health and the health of our environment.

Distinctiveness

Create a park like no other that people are proud to share and call their own.

Diversity

Provide a park where we can express who we are as well as share and celebrate our differences.

Flexibility

Create spaces that are ready to make the most of new opportunities as they arise.

Inclusiveness

Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and interests.

Heritage

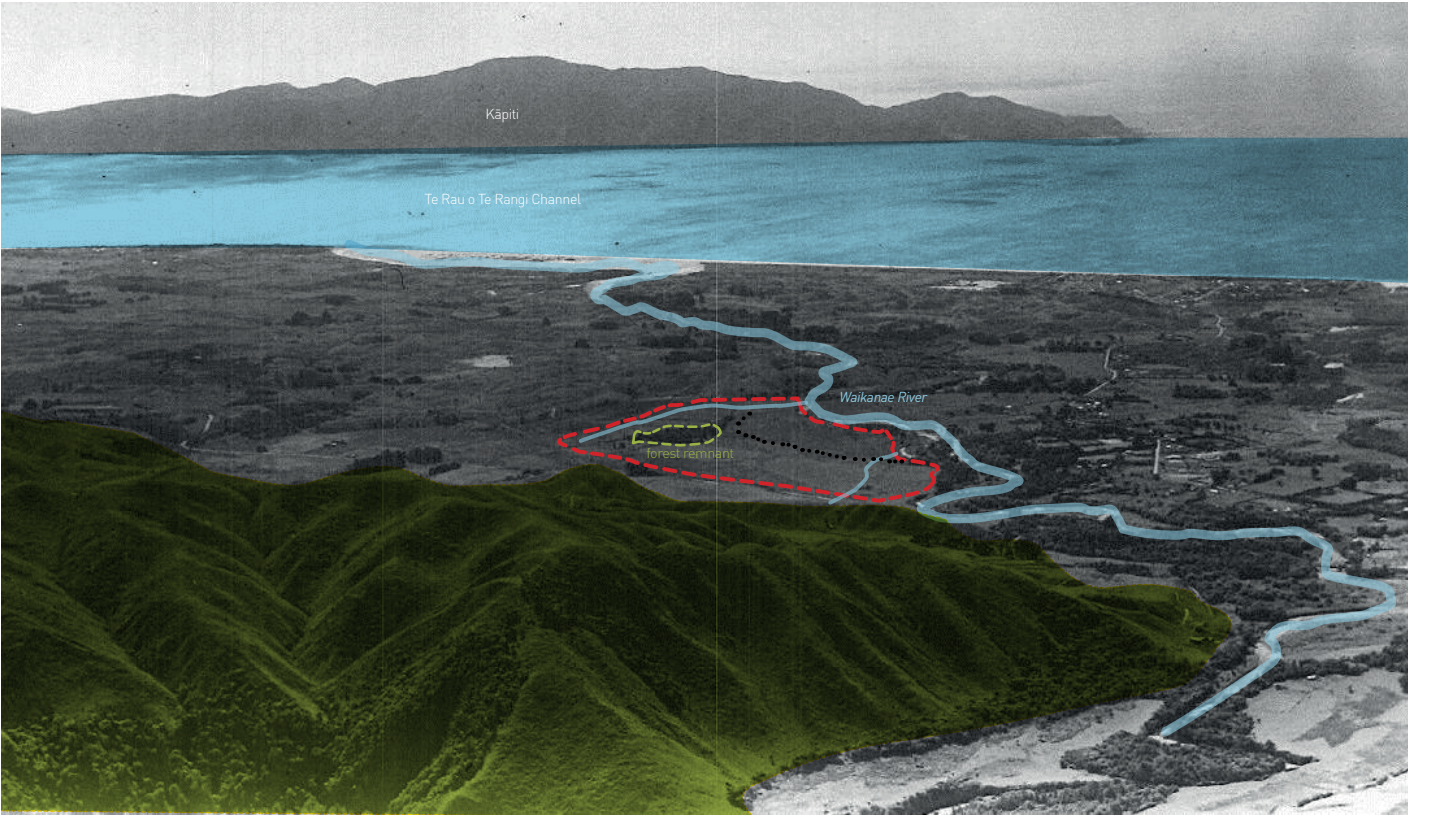
Celebrate and give expression to our natural and cultural heritage to build our sense of place.

All detailed design for future development will be in conjunction with iwi partners and appropriate stakeholders.



Site considerations

The Development Plan balances the opportunities and constraints of the site to provide facilities for sports and recreation, while enhancing the ecological values of the reserve.



Otaraua Park comprises 59.28ha of generally flat alluvial rural land which is located on the southern bank of the Waikanae River. It is approximately midpoint on the coastal plain, 14km north of Paekākāriki and 15.5km south of Ōtaki, making it ideal as a districtwide facility.

The park straddles the river terrace and floodplain environments of the Waikanae River and is a key component of the Waikanae River “Mountains to Sea corridor”. There are two surface water courses that flow through the park, which are tributary connections to the Waikanae River. There is hydrological activity beneath the ground that keeps some areas of the park wet through out the year and emerges as springs in some locations.

The landscape is also characterised by visual connections to the surrounding hills which present a stunning back drop to the park providing opportunities to enhance visitor experience.

There are significant hazards present and the park’s management plan calls for rationalisation of development in the active floodplain on the lower terrace, recognising that ponding will sometimes occur in this area.

There is no water supply or wastewater to the park so solutions for these services will need to be developed on site. The Development Plan allows space for this infrastructure to be built without going in to detail about the type of systems to be used.

Detailed designs for buildings will incorporate water saving and water harvesting technologies to reduce the demand and load of water and wastewater. Other sustainability measures such as the use of renewable energy and energy efficient lighting will also be incorporated at the detailed design stage.

There are Transpower pylons in the park which are critical infrastructure for the national grid, and the southern boundary of the park is constrained by the North Island Main Trunk (NIMT) railway line.

Access and experience

As well as providing links through the park, the access routes within the park will be designed to emphasise and enhance relationships to key landscape features such as the surrounding hills and valleys.

The River and railway line isolate the park from surrounding arterial road networks and currently the only vehicle access to the park is via Ōtaihanga Road and King Arthur Drive.

It is recognised that if the park is to grow significantly, then this access would not be adequate to cope with traffic to and from the park in future. A bridge connection from the old SH1 is the most feasible long term connection and the plan includes this as the new main entry for the future.

The bridge connection will be centrally located and well placed to connect with the main areas of development. Council has made agreements for potential future use of the required land (shown in red below) and has an agreement that allows it to continue to be farmed until it is required for the new main entry to the park.

The park’s roading network has the potential to be an integral part of the park experience. Through the development plan the park’s road network will not only navigate obstacles such as transmission pylons and forest remnants to provide access for parking and drop-off, it will also define spaces and experiences within the park along with visual connections to the surrounding landscape.

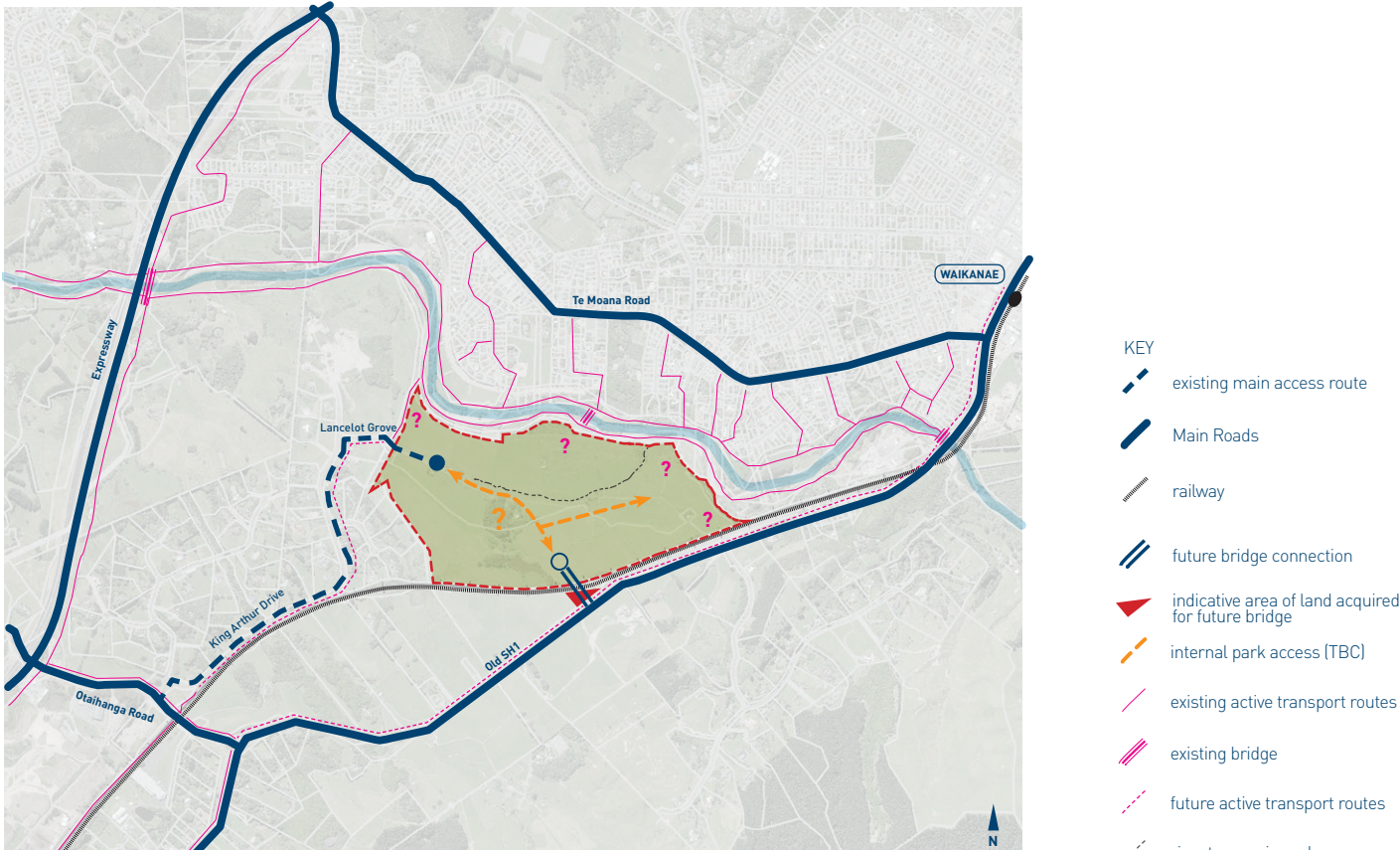
The main park access will broadly separate the park into

zones for “active” recreation on the river plain and upper terrace, and “passive recreation” around the forest and former swamp lands.

There is also potential to improve “active transport” modes and connections to the site, such as walking and cycling. The north side of the Waikanae River is currently well served by trail connections with a link to Otaraua Park via the Te Arawai Bridge. This provides a key entry point to the park for people travelling via these modes from Waikanae. There is also the opportunity to improve access and connection from Waikanae town centre at Kebbell’s Bend and from the Expressway via the existing river trail.

Throughout the development of the park, maintenance access to the River corridor will need to be maintained to support the Greater Wellington Regional Council’s flood protection activities.

There are presently no public transport linkages to the park and new public transport connections are outside of the scope of this plan. The park development should however preserve or enable the potential for public transport linkages to be improved in the future should this become necessary through demand.



Otaraua Park

Development Plan

December 2018



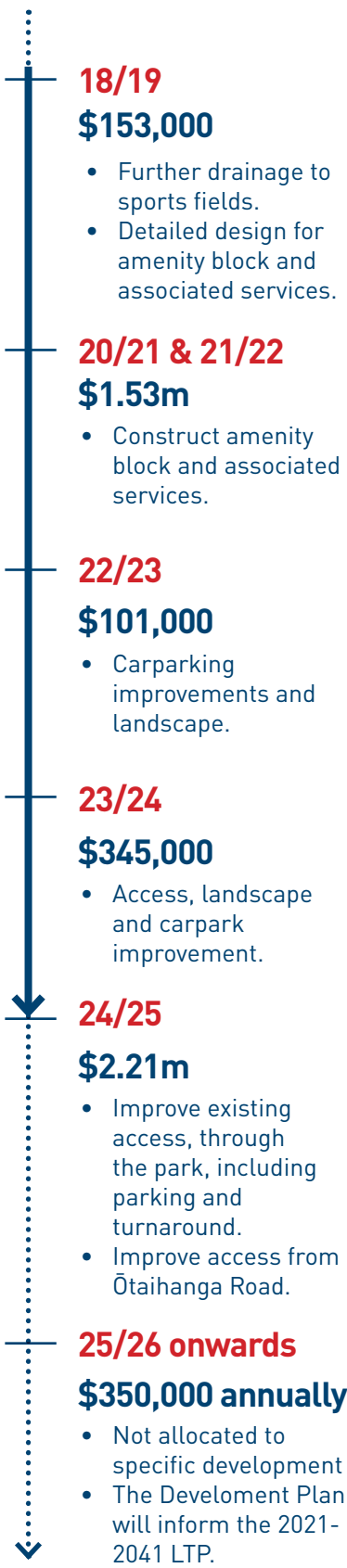
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|---|-------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Existing main access | 6 | Primary access road | 11 | Pond improvements | 16 | Boardwalk | 21 | Operations shed |
| 2 | Sportsfields x 12 | 7 | Hub arrival loop & parking | 12 | BWX | 17 | Exhibition field | 22 | Plant Nursery |
| 3 | Amenities & changerooms | 8 | Multi-purpose Hub Building | 13 | Puna/Stream restoration | 18 | Extra field or hardcourts | 23 | Float Parking |
| 4 | Landscaped carpark | 9 | Multi-purpose track | 14 | Picnic area and parking | 19 | Provisional wastewater area | 24 | Cycle Skills Area |
| 5 | Integrated wetland | 10 | Amphitheatre | 15 | MTB Skills trail | 20 | Future main entrance & bridge | | |
-
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| ● | Specimen & amenity trees | — | Paths and trails (dotted) |
| ● | Restoration & buffer planting | — | Shared Bridleway (dashed) |
| ● | Wetland planting | — | Boardwalk |
| ● | Play area | | |
| ● | Stopbank | | |

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Staging and implementation

The Development Plan identifies and prioritises actions including estimated time-frames and costs in line with existing Long Term Plan budgets. It will also be a framework for working with external funders to develop some of the parks signature facilities.

Timeline

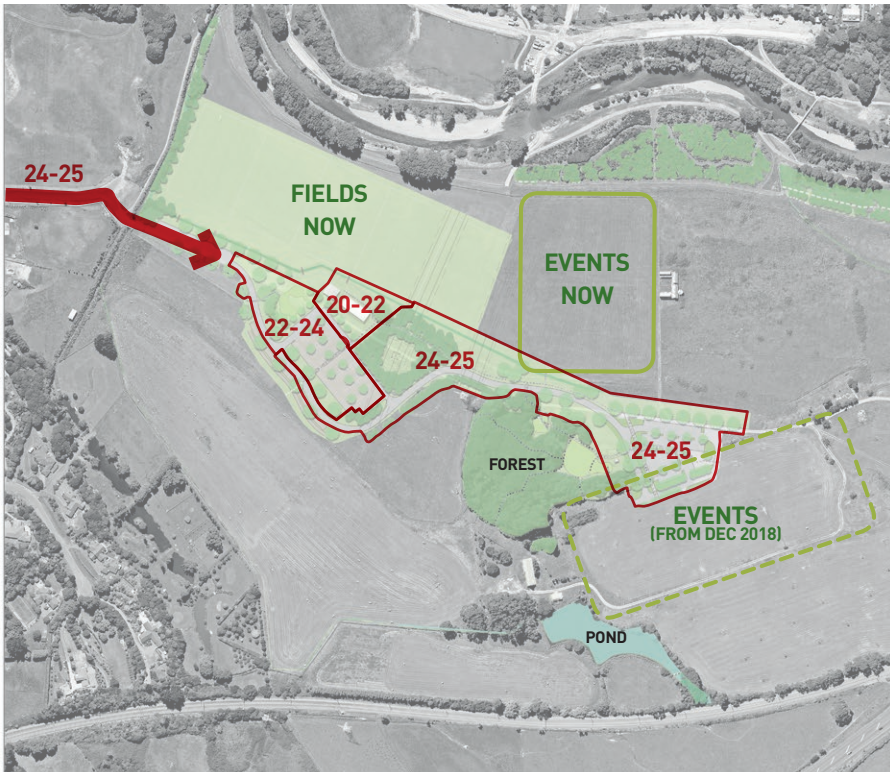


It is intended that the long term development of Otaraua Park will be paid for by a mix of rates and external funding. Significant parts of the proposed plan are dependent on securing external funding in the future. The eventual development of the park will be demand and funding driven and detailed design of each stage will be in conjunction with the appropriate stakeholders. Funding is likely to be available through external sources such as sponsorship, lotteries and community grants. A preliminary funding strategy has been completed (available separately), and a detailed funding strategy will be developed in the future to guide investment and identify partnerships that can support the development.

Some early development is funded now through the 2018-2038 Long Term Plan (LTP) until 2024/2025. There is also budget for future years which may be reallocated in the 2021-2041 LTP based on the approved development plan but this budget will be alongside external funding.

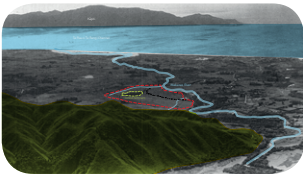
Depending on final costs of each stage, and the availability of external funding, other stages may be brought forward or delayed. The exact scope and cost of works will be confirmed when the detailed design of each stage is complete.

By 2025 the completion of significant new access from Lancelot Grove and parking would start to optimise the park for larger events and festivals – both sporting and non-sporting. This will open the park up for other more intensive forms of development, such as the multi-purpose track and hub building to occur in conjunction with external funding partners and sources. Around this time the current access from Ōtaihangā road would also be improved, including improving intersections and adding a shared path alongside the road to the entrance of the park.



Activity guide (Indicative)

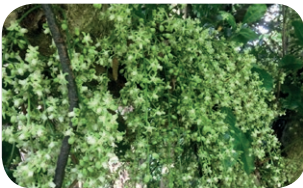
Environmental



The park development will complement and enhance the Waikanae Mountains to Sea ecological corridor.



A main wetland area will include extensive restoration planting, boardwalks and interpretation signage. It will also provide on-site capacity for stormwater retention and environmental enhancement.



The remnant kohekohe forest will be preserved and connected to the wetland area through enrichment and buffer planting, enhancing the habitat for birds and invertebrates.



The park will support educational programmes to provide opportunities for interaction, learning and the guardianship of nature (kaitiakitanga).



The pond will be retained and improved, with some hard edges. The use of the pond will be developed with input from Council, iwi and Fish & Game.



Spring fed waterways will be valued as a resource, restored to support fish passage and improved in conjunction with the development of key facilities such as walkways and building facilities.



Whilst the park will be full of activity areas, there will still be lots of opportunities to relax and enjoy being outdoors in a natural environment.



Artworks and other forms of cultural expression will be incorporated into the development of the park to enhance the visitor experience and sense of place.



Carparking areas will be sensitively and economically located, able to be shared between activities and incorporate water sensitive drainage design and landscaping.

Tracks & Trails



A 3km multi-purpose track for road cycling, para-cycling and inline skating will be a nationally unique facility set within a natural park environment.



The main track will widen in some areas and provide avenues suitable for use during large scale events. These wider spaces can also support activities such as blokarting.



Accessible pedestrian routes will be integrated with the landscape design to efficiently link the main facilities while providing a pleasant experience through the park.



Main paved routes will be supplemented by a hierarchy of other tracks and trails providing circulation through and around the park and connecting to local trail networks and town centres such as Waikanae.



A wheels training area will be part of the mix, supporting children to safely develop and progress their cycle skills.



Bridleways will link to existing trails along the Waikanae River and Expressway and the park will include areas for float parking and horse tie-up.



Planted avenues of amenity trees along the main routes will provide structure, shade and shelter for the park.

Play



A large nature based play space, central to the park and set in nature will be an attraction in itself, a place for picnicking and time with family.



The main sports areas will be supplemented with play facilities to provide activities for children, close to the sports facilities.

Sports



There is capacity for twelve sportsfields and an exhibition field suitable for football and adaptable for other codes and seasonal uses. Training lights and artificial surfaces may be added in future.



An amenities building located near the current main entrance will include toilets and change facilities for sports.



The multi-purpose track will cater for non motorised wheeled sports of all types and abilities.



A mountain bike skills and activity area will be developed amongst restored forest environment and will connect into existing trail networks.



A BMX track will be developed to complement other wheeled sport attractions thus allowing for netball to grow at Te Ātiawa Park. The track design will be confirmed at a later stage.

Events



Community spaces provide places for events and cultural expression, they support the distinctiveness and identity of the Kāpiti Coast.



The park will provide spaces for small to medium scale community gatherings and performance based events.



There will also be larger spaces, base infrastructure and sufficient parking to support large scale exhibition and sporting style events.



The multi-purpose track will be a unique sporting facility for cycling, inline skating and para-cycling events attracting visitors from around the country.

Multi-purpose hub building



A multi-purpose hub is proposed at the centre of the park. It will be shared between users and provide spaces for the community to use and meet.



The main building will include observation areas which make use of the landform to provide views over the main sporting facilities, including the sportsfields and track.



A cafe space with an outlook over the regenerating forest and river will be a place to visit even if you aren't at the park for sport.



In the long term there will be an indoor pavilion for events, winter sport and training and indoor sports including netball.



Opportunities for cultural expression will be explored through the detailed design process for buildings and structures.

Other facilities



Toilet facilities will be located throughout the park and will be sensitively and sustainably designed.



Interpretative signage for cultural and natural heritage will be located throughout the site.



There will be picnic facilities and outdoor amenities to support sports days, community groups and other independent group events.



There will be lots of places to be together with friends, whanau and as a community.

Supplementary information

Development Principles

There are seven key development principles that inform the Development Plan. These principles are built on the information we've gathered from the community so far, key stakeholder requirements, advice from iwi partners and management plan requirements.

Sustainability

- Provide services that are sustainable and environmentally friendly including water supply, wastewater, solid waste, energy efficiency and minimised light pollution
- Create opportunities for interaction, learning and the guardianship of nature (kaitiakitanga)
- Support active modes of transport through the provision of cycleways, walkways and bridleways that link to existing trails
- Improve existing waterways and stream margins and provide a framework for integrated water sensitive design across the site
- Continue environmental restoration planting as well as planting to support the general amenity of the park
- Provide some areas of the park which are herbicide and fertiliser free, particularly areas intended for rongoa harvest
- Multi-purpose shared facilities to aid sustainability of clubs and user groups
- Require all leasees, licence holders, events and activities to use sustainable practices in their interaction with the park

Wellbeing

- Provide places where people can be active and that support sport, recreation and physical exercise
- Support interaction, whanaungatanga and social connectedness
- Enhance and support the healing properties of our natural resources
- Provide places for alternative models of maara kai and rongoa that integrate with the overall park, including the natural, cultural and historic heritage values
- Acknowledge and celebrate waterways and the river as a source of both physical and spiritual nourishment
- Create, enhance and acknowledge linkages between community health and the health of our environment
- Provide a safe park environment for visitors and locals including the provision of appropriate security measures such as night closures, lighting and monitoring.

Distinctiveness

- Create a park of districtwide scale and significance that provides sports and recreation opportunities for the Kāpiti community and is of regional significance (possibly nationally in the future)
- Make the most of the landscape context, the river environment and water courses to enhance the aesthetic experience of the park
- Provide memorable experiences for the Kāpiti community and out of district visitors
- Emphasise vistas and viewpoints through design, including views out from and into the park. Enhance the visual inter-connectivity of activities and spaces within the park
- Create the ability to host large events at the park (both sports and recreation/festival events)
- Contribute to the Waikanae "Mountains to Sea" corridor

Diversity

- Provide a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities, including areas for sports, events and ecological restoration
- Provide community spaces where the vibrancy of our district and its people can be explored, shared and celebrated
- Provide spaces that enable different user groups to work well together and share resources
- Protect and enhance native forest remnants and restore habitats to support biodiversity.

Flexibility

- Be economical with the space available to provide a cohesive and coordinated sequence of activities and spaces
- Establish a multi-modal network for access to link the park to surrounding areas and 'unlock' the interior of the park
- Provide multi-use and shared spaces that are adaptable and flexible to future demand
- Support positive shared experiences and whanaungatanga across the site that different groups can enjoy together
- Provide efficient and well located parking and reduce the negative impact of parking on the park
- Enable good connections to the wider transport network including potential for new connections if or when required

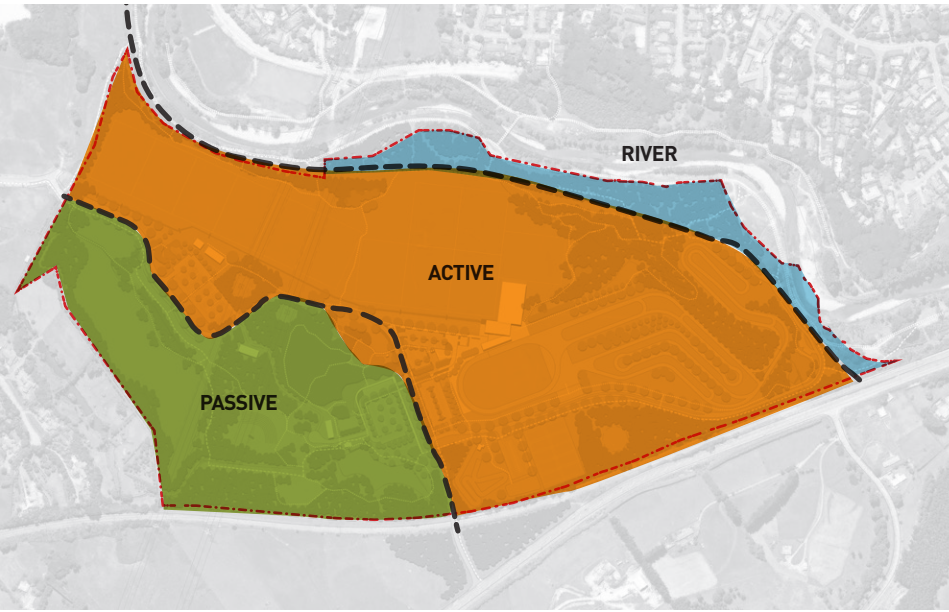
Inclusiveness

- Build community spirit, supporting the wairua of the people through their interaction with the park and each other
- Disability friendly with provision for disability sports and activities
- Spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for all ages and abilities
- Ensure high quality, safe and easy routes through the park and between key attractions

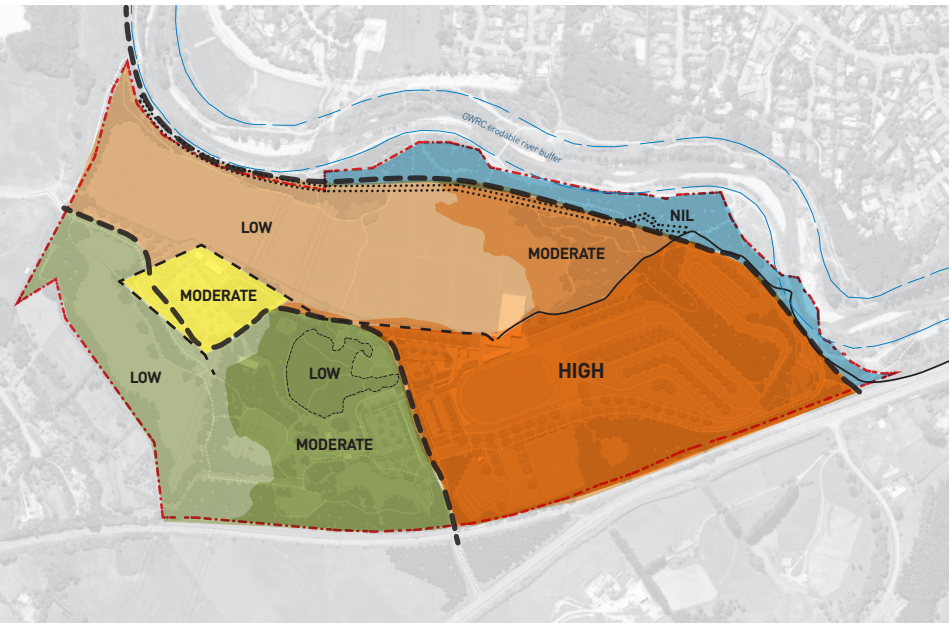
Heritage

- Celebrate and share local history and culture
- Contribute to the sense of place and the identity of the Kāpiti Coast
- Honour and acknowledge natural and cultural resources and areas of significance within the park, including the flow and fluctuation of water
- Give expression to rich and multi-faceted cultural and social history of Otaraia Park and the wider Waikanae, Ōtaihangā and foothills including Te Āti Awa history

Site Development Strategy

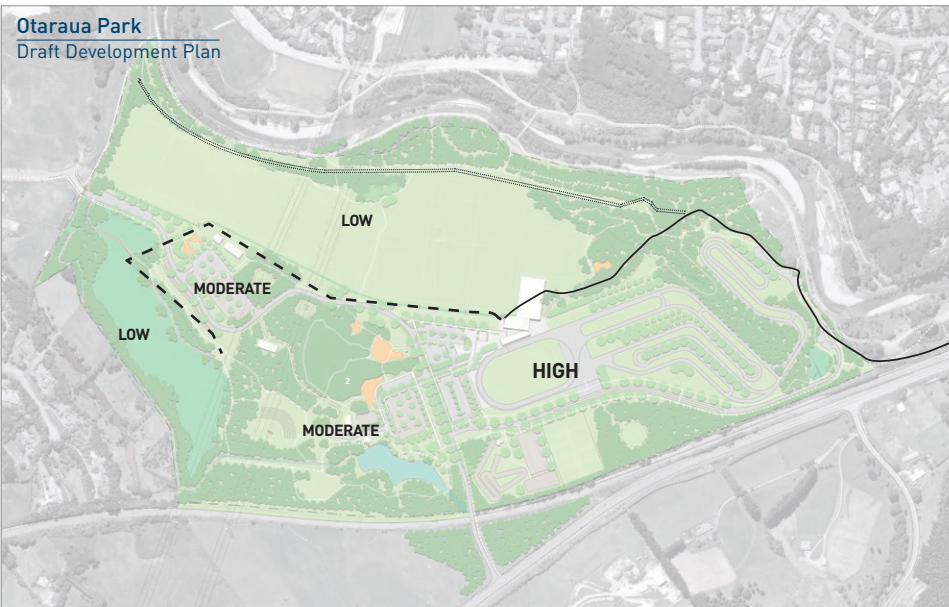


To manage the competing experiential impact of the different recreational activities, the park will be broadly separated into zones for “active” recreation on the river plain and upper terrace, and “passive recreation” around the forest and former swamp lands.



The intensity of development within these zones will be further informed by site characteristics such as the likelihood of flooding and the proximity to sensitive natural features such as the forest and river bank.

Development within the erodable river buffer area shall be avoided, and any existing tracks within this area will be vulnerable to future changes in the course of the river.



This broadly informs the development potential of the site which is reflected in the clustering of the main elements of the Development Plan. The more cost intensive development and activities are planned on the upper river terrace outside of natural hazard areas.

Sustainability Plan

The preparation of this development plan has been undertaken with an ethos of ensuring the site is developed in the most sustainable way possible. The park is isolated from mains services (water and wastewater in particular) which will require an “off-grid” approach to facilities development. This presents an opportunity to strive for best practice in terms of sustainable facilities development. The implementation of the plan should seek to optimise sustainability outcomes through a continuation of this aspiration using the most appropriate method during each phase of development.

The work to date has been guided by the following considerations and ideals:

Innovation

- Support innovation and excellence in the field of sustainable park design, construction and maintenance
- Design for adaptability and change
- Provide multipurpose facilities to make most economical use of the site

Ecology, Water, Soils and Vegetation

- Protect floodplain functions, and achieve hydraulic neutrality of the park at all stages of development
- Conserve and restore aquatic ecosystems and provide for fish passage
- Minimise water use both in the landscape and for building facilities
- Provide rainwater harvesting and storage
- Design functional stormwater features as amenities and features of the landscape
- Conserve habitats for threatened and endangered species along with special status vegetation
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and store carbon through landscape and wetland restoration
- Minimise light pollution
- Create a plan for soil conservation, management and enhancement
- Control and manage pest plants and animals
- Use native and exotic species to balance environmental enhancement with park amenity
- Minimise agri-chemical and fertiliser use and avoid their use completely in areas for rongoā harvest
- Support sustainability in plant propagation and cultivation at a park nursery

Materials

- Use only sustainable sources of materials
- Maintain structures effectively to maximise life span
- Use recycled materials where possible
- Support sustainability in construction and manufacturing
- Support the storage and collection of recyclables

Human Health and Wellbeing

- Support rongoā and hauora at the park
- Support mental restoration
- Support physical activity
- Support social connection
- Provide maara kai through the considered establishment of vegetation such as productive trees
- Promote sustainability awareness and education through park programmes and activities
- Supplement on site waste systems with temporary facilities during large events

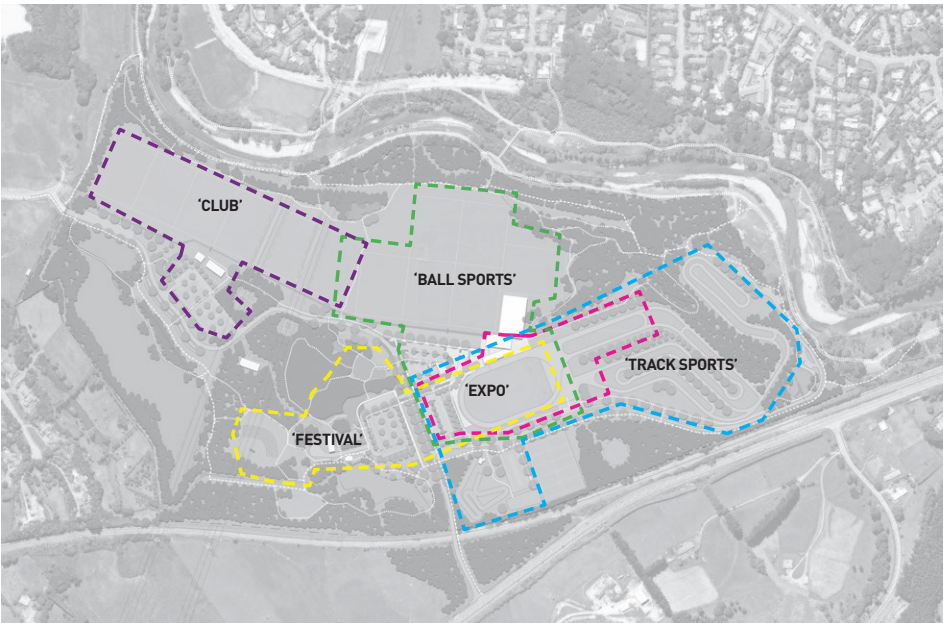
Buildings and Facilities

- Design for New Zealand excellence in building sustainability (e.g. Greenstar 5 star or greater or equivalent measure at the time of construction)

Energy

- Optimise energy performance across all park facilities.
- Incorporate energy generation into future site and facilities design, including consideration of wind and solar generation).
- Support energy conservation through passive heating and cooling, energy efficient appliances lighting and plant machinery.
- Encourage multi-modal and/or fuel efficient transportation
- Preserve the ability to link with multi-modal transport networks in future
- Provide parking for bicycles and charging points for e-bikes and e-vehicles
- Use vegetation to support microclimates for recreational enjoyment, reducing the need for built structures and reducing energy use

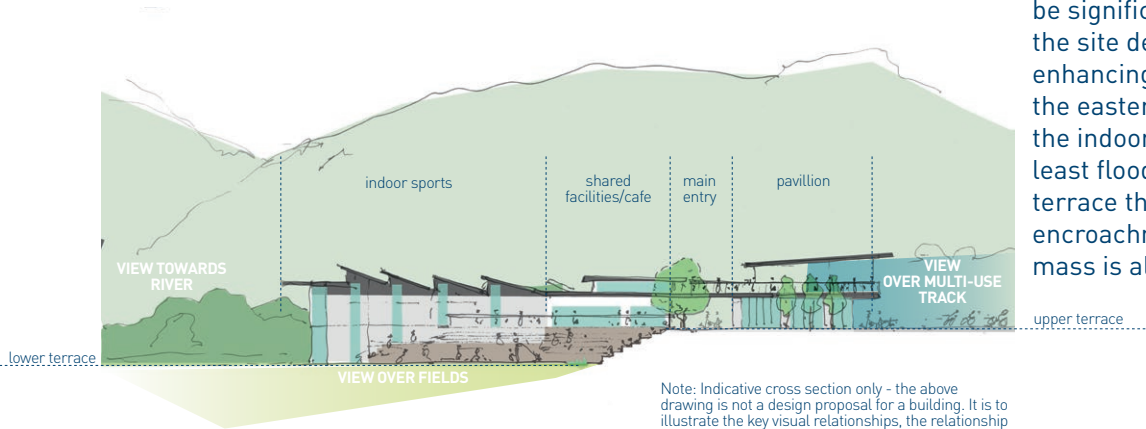
Multi-purpose park precincts and facilities



The park’s circulation and events spaces will be adaptable and configurable to suit events of various types and sizes, from outdoor concerts of a few hundred people to larger sporting and exhibition based events which may attract thousands of people a day. The central area of the park will act as an adaptable multi-purpose precinct and central to this will be a “Multi-purpose Hub”. This building will have an outlook over all main facilities and include access and drop-off for oversized vehicles such as buses and trucks.



The Multi-Purpose Hub has been located at a transition point where the modified river bank meets the “eastern cliff” on the site of a former farm house. The shared building is centrally located within the park, with an outlook over key facilities thus reducing the total site coverage of buildings in the park. The building will define the transition between modified and natural river bank and serve to protect the most natural part of the river embankment by avoiding development on its entire eastern end. A boardwalk connecting between the upper and lower terraces will provide opportunities for interpretation of the natural cliff edge and minimise damage to this edge through the formation of informal tracks and desire lines down the bank. The small stream and areas around an existing remnant forest will also be significantly restored through the site development, further enhancing the natural values of the eastern river bank. By locating the indoor sport area within the least flood prone area of the lower terrace the relative height plane encroachment of the building mass is also reduced.

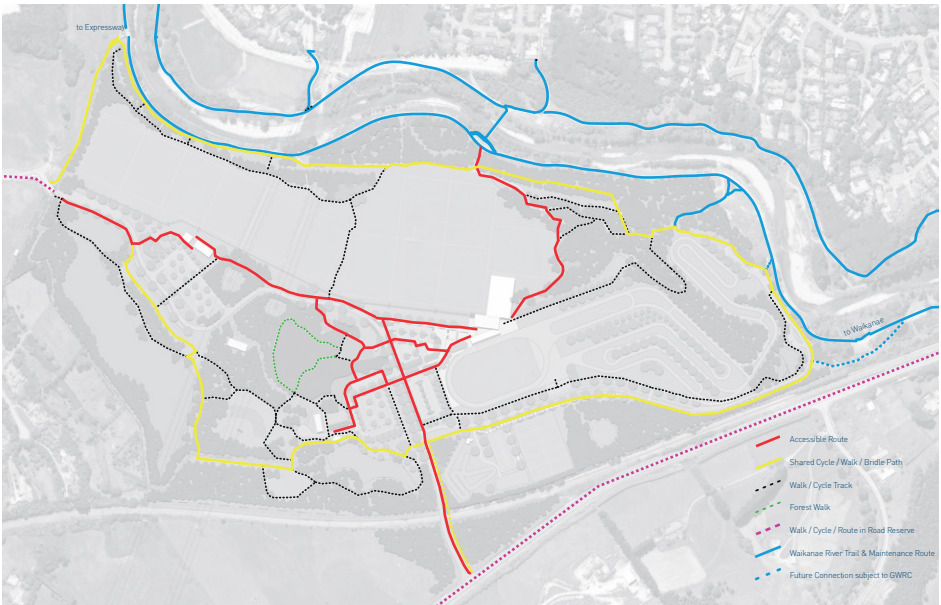


Note: Indicative cross section only - the above drawing is not a design proposal for a building. It is to illustrate the key visual relationships, the relationship to terrace levels and the stageable potential of the multi-purpose hub site.

Moving around the Park

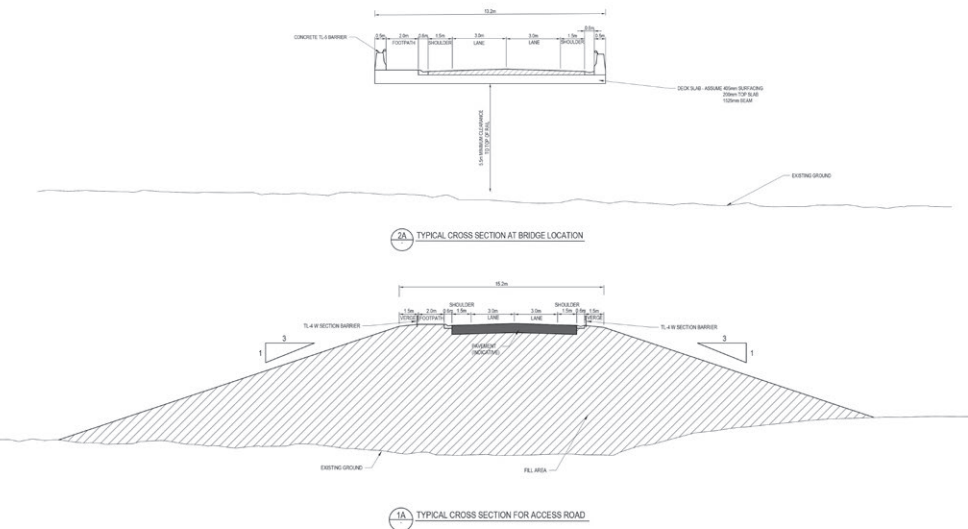


New internal park roads are proposed which will provide access to main facilities and the Waikanae River. In future, subject to the growth of the park, these roads can connect to the Old State Highway via a new main entry bridge over the railway tracks. The road layout has been designed to optimise the use of space while enhancing the experience of the park and surrounding landscape. The road connecting to the river is also able to supplement the wheeled sports programmes and provides the Regional Council with the potential to create a new river access point east of Kebbell’s bend for flood protection purposes.



In addition to vehicle routes the park will also be well served by a network of paths and trails for walking, cycling and horseriding. This will include accessible paths between the main facilities. Multiple entry points to and from the park with parking for horse floats and bicycles, connections to the wider network via the Waikanae River, Expressway, King Arthur Drive and the proposed bridge over the railway line, and a 3.2km shared cycleway, walkway, bridleway route around the park.

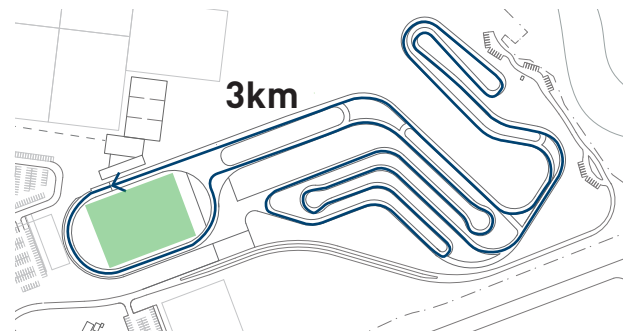
The new bridge connection is proposed as part of the long term plan for development. There is no timeline or budget for the bridge project which will be demand driven in relation to park growth. The location shown on the plans is the result of a high level investigation which identified this location as being the most feasible and safe connection from the old State Highway in to the park. The bridge is included to ensure that early development of the park does not compromise access improvements later. The bridge will be sensitively designed and planted to minimise adverse effects on landscape character. The bridge will include a shared path to enable walkers, cyclists and horses (on lead) to cross the railway and access the recreational amenity of the park and river corridor.



Multipurpose Track

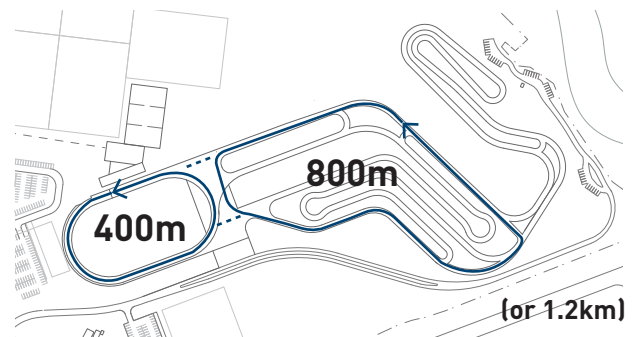
Full Circuit

- 3km dedicated track for non-motorised wheeled sport
- 280m home straight
- extensive spectator capacity
- not a velodrome - all flat track
- premier sportsfield (104m x 68m) within 400m circuit.
- non-motorised wheeled sports include cycling, inline skating, paracycling, blokarting etc.



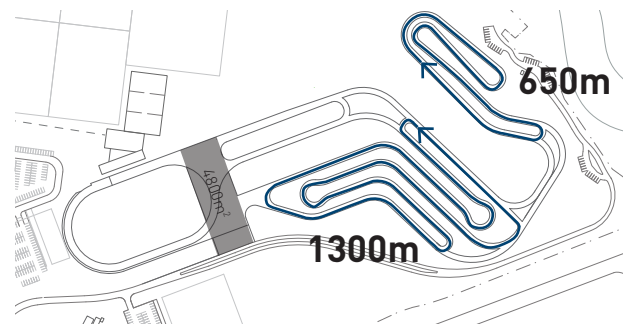
Speed Circuits

- fast flowing loops suitable for power events
- suitable for inline skating and sprint cycling
- 400m, 800m or 1.2km options



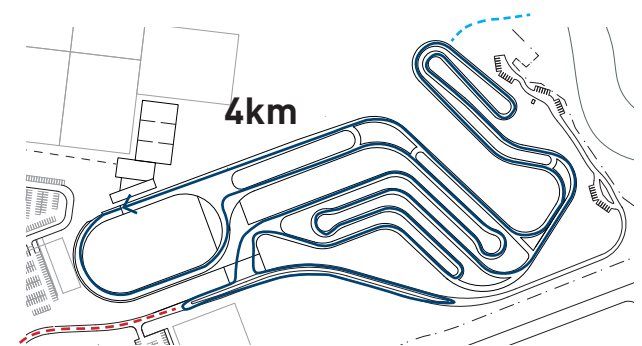
Blokart and Technical Circuits

- large 40m x 120m (4800m²) central area suitable for blokart etc.
- simultaneous use of track for technical training by other groups



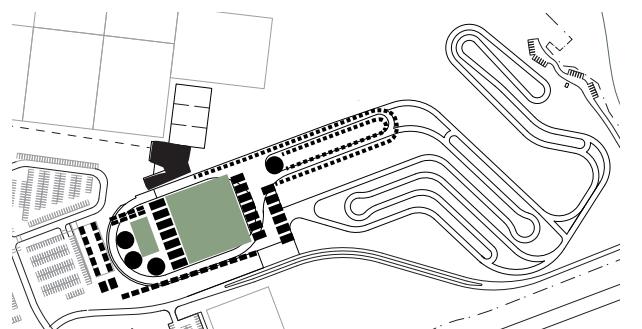
4km and Road Race

- uses park road to add extra 1km of 'track'
- connects to road network for road cycling events once there is a new bridge connection to the park
- connects to river trails for cycle-cross events



Event Space

- indicative layout only
- uses track as event "avenues"
- extensive marquee and stall capacity
- uses pavillion space in multi-hub building



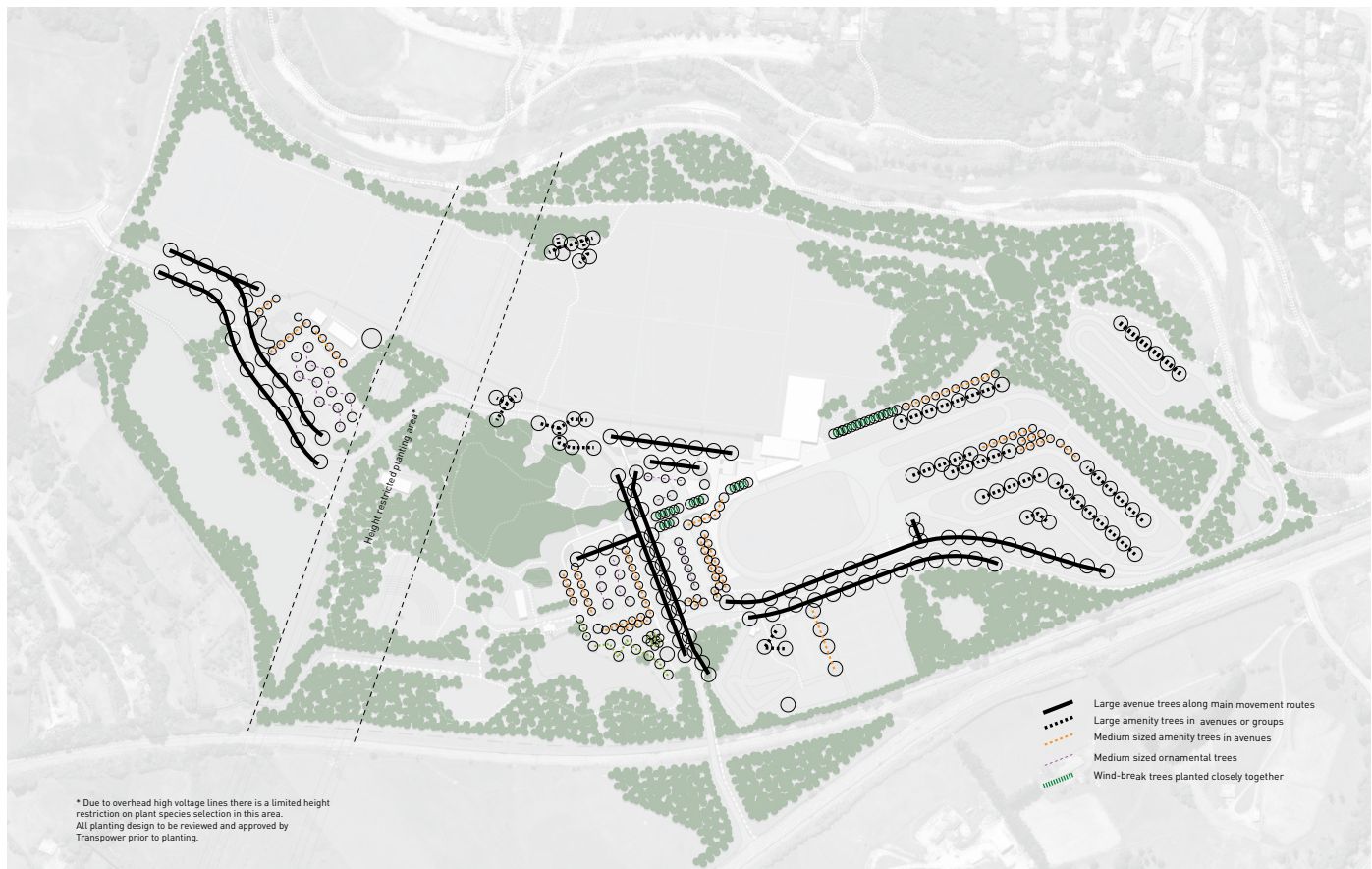
Cultural and Landscape Interpretation Plan

Further to the work of this Development Plan, an interpretation plan is recommended. This will require a more in depth research phase to identify key themes for storytelling and the best ways that different stories can be told. These stories may include such diverse themes as natural phenomena, cultural significance, landscape history and the history of sports clubs and community groups.

It is envisaged that an effective interpretation plan will reveal the stories of the area using a multi-layered approach which embraces a range of different techniques. Importantly, the interpretation and key themes of the park will be most effective if it is actively linked and embedded into the experience of park users rather than provided as a separate 'activity' in itself.

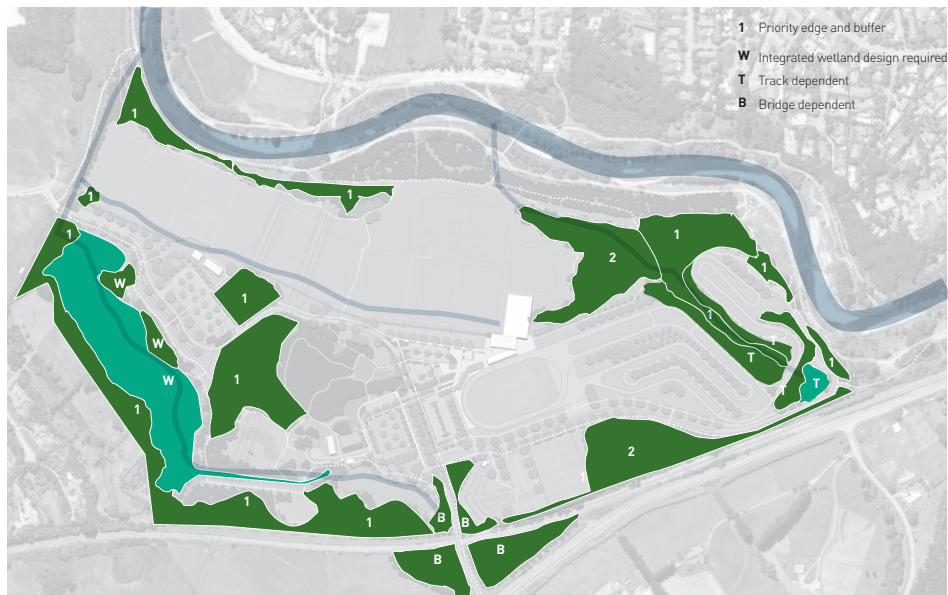
Such a layered approach could include techniques and methods such as:

- Landscape Design, including the preservation, accentuation and restoration of key landscape features and connections through the design and layout of the park landscape.
- A park 'brand' which provides a unique visual identity for Otarua Park and can be used to build the profile and identity of the park at a regional and national scale.
- A website including pre-trip information that is useful and engaging and provides a basis for communicating park information, programmes and events.
- High quality and consistently designed signage in english and te reo for instructional and information signage such as park maps.
- A suite of consistently styled interpretation signage - bilingual site based signs that communicate the key themes and stories of the place.
- Themed programmes and activities that support learning and skills development through the use and enjoyment of the site.
- Event coordination and management that keys in to and reinforces the cultural values and design principles of the park.
- Place specific artworks such as sculptures, installations and performances that respond to the specific context of the site.
- Audio tours and oral histories accessible via personal devices to provide site base story telling and knowledge development in the park environment.
- Any interpretative development will be in partnership with iwi and the 'storyholder'.



Planting will support the appearance and performance of the park, both as a venue for recreation and as a functioning part of the Waikanae River ecosystem. The plan broadly indicates areas for amenity planting (shown on the diagram above) and restoration planting (shown on the diagram below). The amenity planting is intended to support the main activities, movement systems and sightlines of the park and can be implemented to provide structure to the park in advance of the main facilities being developed.

The Otaraua Park Management Plan (2014) provides indicative species lists, however detailed schedules for each planting area will need to be developed with input from iwi partners and key stakeholders. There is also an area of the park under the high voltage lines and any planting in these areas will need to be developed in consultation with Transpower to ensure there is no encroachment on the lines in future. Other important areas of consideration are the ecological site central to the park, and proposed nursery space which will support the re-vegetation of the site.



Restoration planting is also a key component of the plan. Some work has already begun along the Waikanae River and this will be extended into the park using existing budgets for planting. Some areas will need to be integrated with detailed design of the main facilities in order to offset environmental effects of developing the park. A good example is the main wetland area which can be partially planted now to shade waterways and buffer surrounding residences, but will need to be fully designed and completed later in conjunction with other development to achieve hydraulic neutrality.