



## MATTHEWS PARK Management Plan



KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MATTHEWS PARK  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

**August 1993**

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Part One: Description</b>	
1.1 Legal Description and Location	1
1.2 Physical and Natural Features	1
1.3 History and Present Use	2
<b>Part Two: Aim and Objectives</b>	
2.1 Aim	3
2.2 Objectives	3
<b>Part Three: Policies</b>	
<b>Administration and Management</b>	
3.1 Administration	4
3.2 Interpretation of Policies	4
3.3 Adjacent Land Use	5
3.4 Leases and Licences	5
3.5 Water Use	6
3.6 Environmental Controls	6
3.7 Signs	8
<b>Management of Resources</b>	
3.8 Landscape Character	10
3.9 Vegetation	11
3.10 Sportsground	12
3.11 Children's Play Area	12
3.12 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture	14
<b>Use and Development</b>	
3.13 Recreation	16
3.14 Access and Parking	17
3.15 Controls and Prohibitions	17
3.16 Development	18

## **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 Matthews Park consists of 2.288 hectares of land comprising:

- Lot 68 DP 12090
- Lot 57 DP 14403
- Lot 4 DP 51511
- Lot 11 DP 22047
- Lot 20 DP 19156.

The Park is gazetted a Recreation Reserve vested in the Kapiti Coast District Council.

#### 1.1.2 The park is located in Raumati South approximately 0.5 kilometres from the coast, in a residential housing area. It is bounded by Menin Road to the south where the main entrance is located. To the east and west there is residential housing with pedestrian access ways through to Miro and Renown Roads.

#### 1.1.3 To the north lies an area of privately owned, undeveloped land which is to be subdivided for housing at some future time. When this occurs, a reserve contribution will be added to Matthews Park.

### 1.2 Physical and Natural Features

#### 1.2.1 Raumati South has been developed in an area of undulating stable sand dune country. Matthews Park occupies a hollow in the dunes, levelled to form a playing field, and enclosed by steep banks along the east and west boundaries.

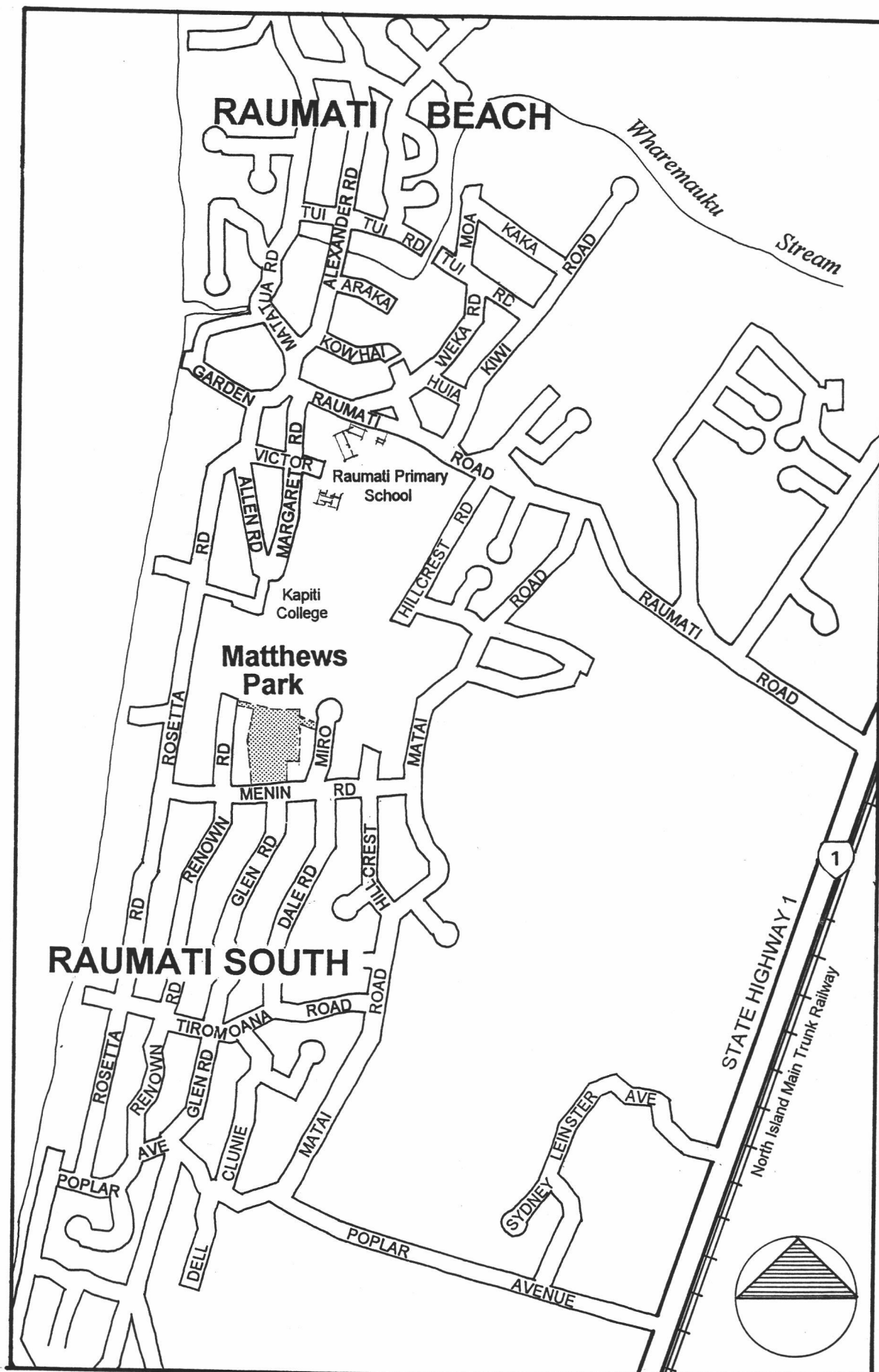
#### 1.2.2 The soil is the Manawatu-Wellington central yellow brown sand typical of the dune lands along the coast here :- a variable soil type according to topography and age of the dunes. At Matthews Park, the dunes are old enough for a stable, though still sandy and free draining top soil to have developed, over a sand sub-soil.

#### 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.

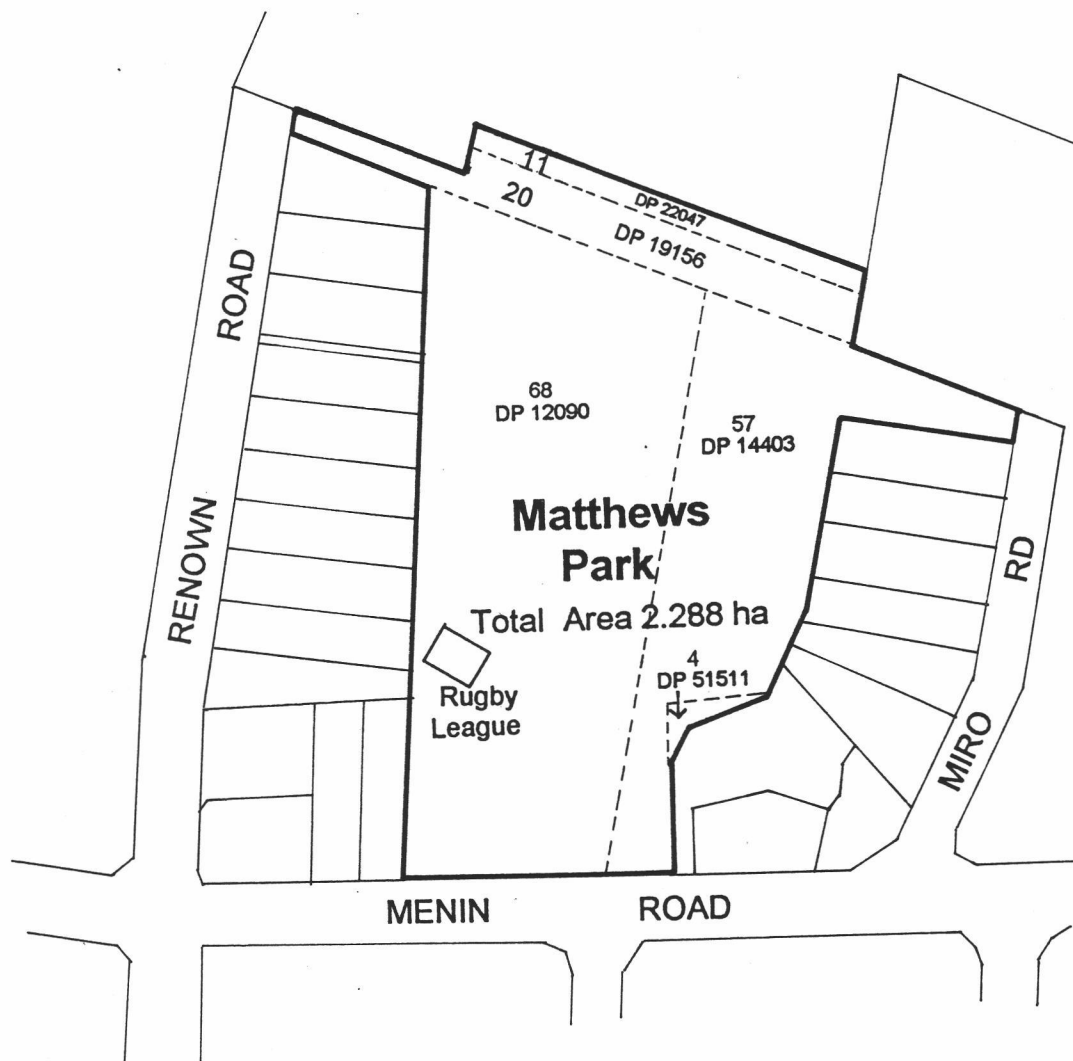
#### 1.2.5 Vegetation is confined to the steep banks and boundaries to east and west, comprising principally:

- a mature stand of *Cupressus macrocarpa* and poplar with some smaller cryptomeria and cherry trees on the west side;
- scattered eucalyptus, karo, flax, pampas grass, taupata and tradescantia along much of the east side. Adjacent to Menin Road a



## LOCATION PLAN





Scale 1:2000

Legal Description

grove of cherry trees show signs of stunting and die-back. Prominent on the top of this bank is a single, fine specimen of *Pinus radiata*;

- flax and eucalyptus have been planted along the boundary fences of the pedestrian access to Miro Road;
- a few scattered golden macrocarpa and cryptomeria occur at the Menin Road car park and road frontage;
- rank grasses and some noxious weeds, especially blackberry, occur amongst the plantings on the steeper parts of the banks.

### 1.3 History and Present Use

1.3.1 The Park is made up of three reserve contributions from surrounding subdivisions which were vested in 1940, 1949 and 1952. It is named after Mr E.J.B. Matthews who was a long-serving member and Chairman of the Hutt County Council and first mayor of the Kapiti Borough Council formed in 1974.

1.3.2 A Scout Association hall and public toilets were previously located in the north-west corner of the Park, but have now been removed. The scouts were relocated to another site and the toilets were replaced with an amenities block sited next to the car park in the south-west part of the Park, (built in 1982).

1.3.3 The main flat area of the Park has been developed into a rugby league field, used as the home ground by the Gold Coast Rugby League Club who built their club rooms above the amenities block in 1983. There is no organised summer sport usage, but the playing field is used for casual touch rugby, cricket and softball.

1.3.4 A playground and sealed car park occupy the Menin Road frontage.

## **PART TWO: AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Aim**

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

### **2.2 Objectives**

- 2.2.1 To develop and enhance the Park as an intrinsic part of the open space network in the Raumati area.
- 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 Matthews 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 Matthews 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 such as parents whose children use the playground.
- 3.1.3 Community groups may also be interested in participating in special projects such as planting programmes. 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 Park 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 Matthews Park is located in a residential area with a number of 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, the Kapiti Gold Coast Rugby League Club holds a lease and licence to occupy the club rooms in the facilities building. These club rooms were financed by the Club, but were significantly subsidised by the Council in the form of the ground floor amenities block including toilets and changing 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 time allowed. Permits are issued for a specified number of years and must be reapplied for upon expiry.
- 3.5.2 A well has recently been drilled at Matthews Park to enable summer irrigation of the sports field.

### **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 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 At Matthews Park, rabbits spreading from the adjacent undeveloped land have been a particular problem, causing damage to ground and vegetation. An eradication programme was carried out in 1988 subject to temporary Park closure and strict Department of Health controls on the use of poison. The rabbit population needs to be monitored on a continuing basis.
- 3.6.5 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 at the facilities building and playground 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, especially rabbits, 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, such as use of rabbit poison, 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.

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. For instance, signs prohibiting vehicles may not be needed where adequate parking and vehicle barriers have been developed.

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 Matthews Park two aspects should be remedied as soon as possible. The mis-spelt name sign at Menin Road and the need for direction signs at the Miro and Renown Road entrances.

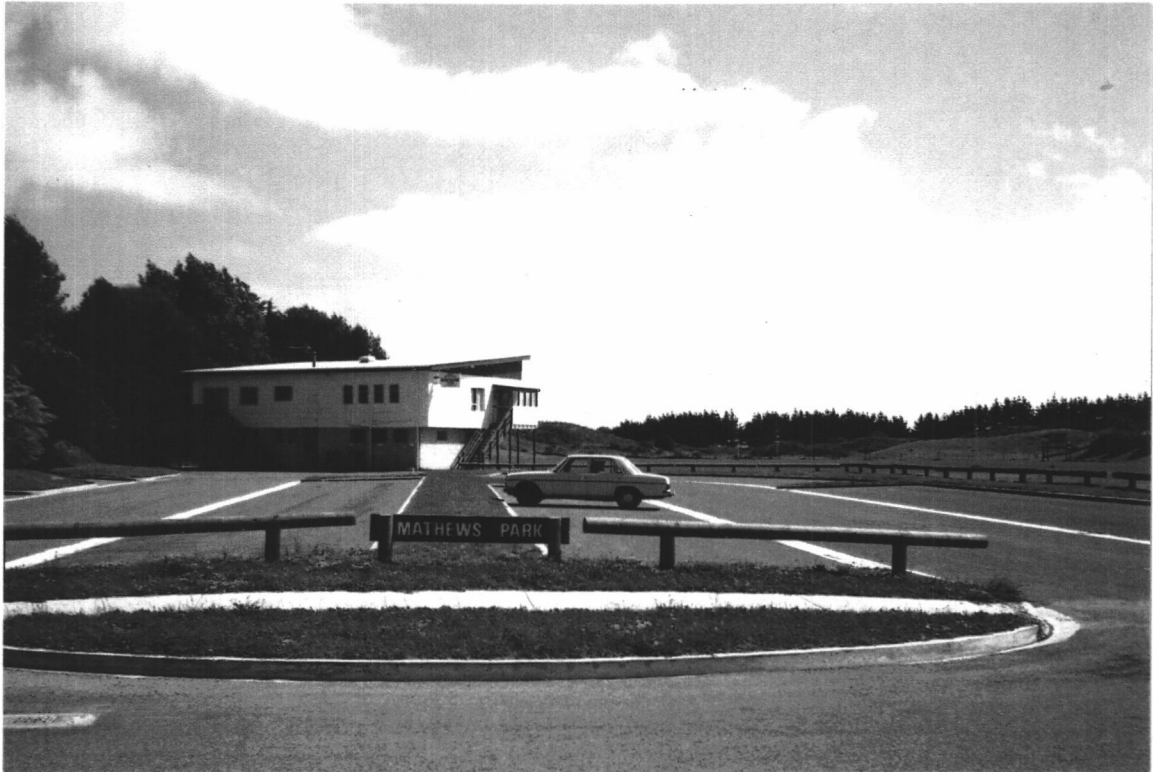
#### **Policies**

- 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 The landscape character of a reserve needs to be considered not only in terms of its site conditions and features, but also in the context of the surrounding area. In suburban areas open space has much potential to strengthen local identity by providing a framework for development in which natural features are preserved or enhanced.
- 3.8.2 Raumati owes much of its distinctive character to the gentle landforms of the dunes and to its coastal situation, but little now remains of the vegetation that once occurred naturally here. In the relatively new housing area around Matthews Park, there is little mass or mature vegetation of any sort. The mature macrocarpa, pines and poplars in the Park and the pine belt visible to the north (vestiges of the former farming landscape) are, therefore, significant features of the locality.
- 3.8.3 Matthews Park is essentially a hollow in the dunes with elements of shelter and visual containment provided by these trees and the dune landforms on its east and west sides. These features provide a basic landscape framework. However, the Park is very open to north and south and the prevailing winds from these directions. The car park, playground and facilities building present a stark frontage to Menin Road, while the potential reserve contribution to the north has no tall vegetation.
- 3.8.4 Visual appeal and recreation use would be enhanced by a planned planting programme to provide shelter and shade. Planting can be used to break up the expanse of open ground into smaller scale spaces, particularly around the playground and to screen the car park and facilities building. The essential character of the Park as a sheltered hollow can also be reinforced by mass planting on the banks to each side, although the lower parts of the bank should be maintained in grass to provide elevated spectating of the playing field.
- 3.8.5 As the Park is used primarily for active recreation, a bold and simple planting framework is required, using hardy species known to thrive in local conditions and requiring little maintenance, once established. There is potential to restore something of the area's natural character by extensive use of the native species that occurred naturally prior to settlement as a basic planting structure. Within this structure specimen planting of the pines, poplar and eucalyptus already found in the Park would be appropriate as these species are also typical of the locality, reflecting its recent farming history and the coastal dune conditions.
- 3.8.6 When the potential reserve land to the north becomes available, it should be developed so that the whole Park reads as a unified open space with the same planting framework, planned pedestrian and visual connections from north to south and complementary style of any new buildings.



The stark Menin Road entrance is to be improved with planting around the car park and a less obtrusive colour scheme for the facilities/club room building.

## Policies

- i The landscape character and scenic value of the Park shall be protected and enhanced.
- ii A planting programme shall be planned using species and design appropriate to the local character and the active recreational use of the Park.
- iii Future landscape development of the potential reserve land to the north shall be consistent with that of the existing Park.

### 3.9 Vegetation

- 3.9.1 The mature macrocarpa, pine and poplar trees in the Park are important for the shelter and visual amenity that they provide. These trees must be protected and managed to maintain their health and ensure their longevity. Pruning should only be for reasons of safety and tree health and must only be carried out by skilled personnel.
- 3.9.2 Past planting has mainly been of a widely spaced and scattered distribution. This necessitates continuing and difficult maintenance between the plants, especially on the steep banks, and a long interval before the individual plants achieve sufficient size to have an impact. Mass and group planting at closer spacings should be considered as an alternative approach. The plants close over the ground more quickly, reducing maintenance, provide shelter for each other and achieve visual impact sooner because grouped together. This applies particularly to the steep banks where weed growth is a problem. Techniques for revegetating such sites with native species have now been well tested and can produce rapid results.
- 3.9.3 Plant survival and rate of growth is also dependent upon thorough site preparation and regular follow-up maintenance for weed control, fertilising, watering and protection from damage. Expenditure on extra maintenance for several years is more than justified by rapid results and healthy plants.
- 3.9.4 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 Park.

## Policies

- i The mature trees in the Park are a significant landscape feature and shall be protected and maintained for good health.
- ii Sound horticultural techniques shall be applied to the maintenance of the Park's vegetation and tree pruning carried out only by skilled tree specialists.

- iii Planting techniques shall be reviewed when planning the Park's planting programme. In particular, revegetation techniques using native species shall be considered.
- iv A planting programme shall be implemented as soon as possible.

### **3.10 Sportsground**

- 3.10.1 There is one playing field at Matthews Park which is used for rugby league during the winter season and informal touch rugby, cricket and softball during the summer. To date it has not been possible to maintain the ground to an adequate standard for organised summer sport due to inadequate water supply. However, as an irrigation well has now been drilled, the Council's Parks and Recreation Department intends to upgrade the playing field for summer use as well.
- 3.10.2 A high standard of maintenance is required to ensure the ground is 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.
- 3.10.3 The Parks and Recreation Department of the Council undertakes the responsibility for maintaining the playing surface for sports groups but the provision of equipment including flood lights is the responsibility of those groups.

### **Policies**

- i The playing field shall be upgraded to accommodate summer and winter sport.
- ii The playing surface shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for competition play.
- iii The condition of the playing surface 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.
- iv 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.

### **3.11 Children's Play Area**

- 3.11.1 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.

3.11.2 The play area at Matthews Park, developed in 1979, includes swings and several climbing structures of a standard design used in numerous Kapiti Borough reserves at that time. Although adjacent to Menin Road, the equipment is set back from and separated from the road by a low timber barrier. Its location also ensures a degree of security as the area is visible from nearby houses and the road. However, tree planting is required to provide shade and shelter and to define the play area as a more intimate space, provided that easy access to the playing field and visibility from the road is maintained.

3.11.3 As the play equipment has now been in place for over a decade, 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.

3.11.4 The design, suitability of equipment and additional opportunities should also be reviewed to assess the need for longer-term upgrading. There is potential at this site, for instance, to make use of the adjacent slope for the siting of equipment such as slides. 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.

3.11.5 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 to provide shade and shelter.
- v The need for upgrading the play area shall be assessed in consultation with playground users.

- vi Involvement of the local community in monitoring and upgrading of the playground shall be encouraged.
- vii 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.

### **3.12 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture**

- 3.12.1 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.

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.

#### **3.12.2 Buildings**

The facilities building is of a plain, functional style and is in a state of good repair, but it dominates the Park due to:

- its white colour which stands out against the green backdrop;
- its two storey height on a flat site; and
- a lack of tree planting to set it into its surroundings.

When next painted, a new colour scheme should be selected which will contrast less with the surroundings. This is essentially a matter of colour "weight" where darker colours reflect less light and will contrast less with the mid-to dark tones of the Park's vegetation.

Although there is only one building at present, there may be future demand for more built facilities. 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.

#### **3.12.3 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 can be 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 most Kapiti Coast Reserves, but can be dominant on the open ground frequently found around parking areas. This is certainly the case at Matthews Park, where planting would reduce their impact.

#### 3.12.4 Boundary Fencing

Boundary fencing is a necessity of most urban parks to ensure the security and privacy of adjacent properties, but can result in very stark edges. Intervening vegetation screens most of the boundary fences at Matthews Park but some additional planting along the exposed fences at the Menin Road car park and Miro Road accessway would enhance these entrances.

#### 3.12.5 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 New buildings, structures and site furniture shall be sited to complement the Park's character while meeting functional requirements. 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.
- v All new buildings and structures, and alterations to those existing, shall comply with the requirements of the Building Act 1991.
- vi Trees shall be planted around the facilities building to reduce its visual impact.
- vii Boundary fencing shall be maintained in a state of good repair and its visibility reduced with the use of planting and/or landform.

## USE AND DEVELOPMENT

### 3.13 Recreation

- 3.13.1 Multiple use of public parks is a principle to be fostered wherever possible to maximise efficient use of resources.
- 3.13.2 At present the facilities block, club rooms and playing field are used principally by the Gold Coast Rugby League Club for whom the Park is home ground. Their history of use and financial commitment to the building of the club rooms must be recognised but should not be seen as the right to exclusive use. Sharing the ground and club rooms with a summer sports body has been discussed but was thought impracticable because of limited storage space for off-season storage of equipment. However, now that the ground can be upgraded for competition-level summer sport, the feasibility of sharing facilities and possible storage solutions should be investigated more thoroughly.
- 3.13.3 Although the main area is devoted to facilities for organised sport, it must be recognised that the Park is also a valuable open space for informal recreation such as social ball games, walking, kite flying and children's play. Use for organised activities must be managed so that the playing field area is also freely available for those other needs 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 playing field and facilities building 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).

### **3.14 Access and Parking**

- 3.14.1 The main entrance to the Park is at Menin Road, where a sealed car park has recently been developed. Barriers have been placed to prevent vehicle damage to the rest of the Park.
- 3.14.2 There are also pedestrian access points at Renown and Miro Roads which require signposting to clarify their public entry purpose. The Renown Road entrance is currently spanned by a padlocked gate and awkward stile. This should be replaced with the standard timber vehicle barrier to facilitate pedestrian access.
- 3.14.3 Pedestrian access within the Park is generally informal without formed paths or tracks. Pedestrian use should be monitored and if evidence of excessive wear is found, more resilient path surfacing should be developed. More immediately, steps should be constructed on the east bank to connect with the Miro Road entrance as the steep slope is difficult to negotiate.

### **Policies**

- i Public vehicle access shall be restricted to the Menin Road car park.
- ii Steps and paths shall be developed where necessary to facilitate pedestrian access and protect the Park's surface.

### **3.15 Controls and Prohibitions**

- 3.15.1 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:

#### **3.15.2 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 Park 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 Matthews Park.

Although prohibition signs are prominently displayed in such areas throughout the Council's reserves, they are consistently ignored. This may result from a view amongst dog owners that there are inadequate dog walking areas in the District. The Department intends, therefore, to review the open spaces under its management with a view to making alternative

provision for this form of recreation. At the same time, more effective enforcement in prohibited areas is 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.

### 3.15.3 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.

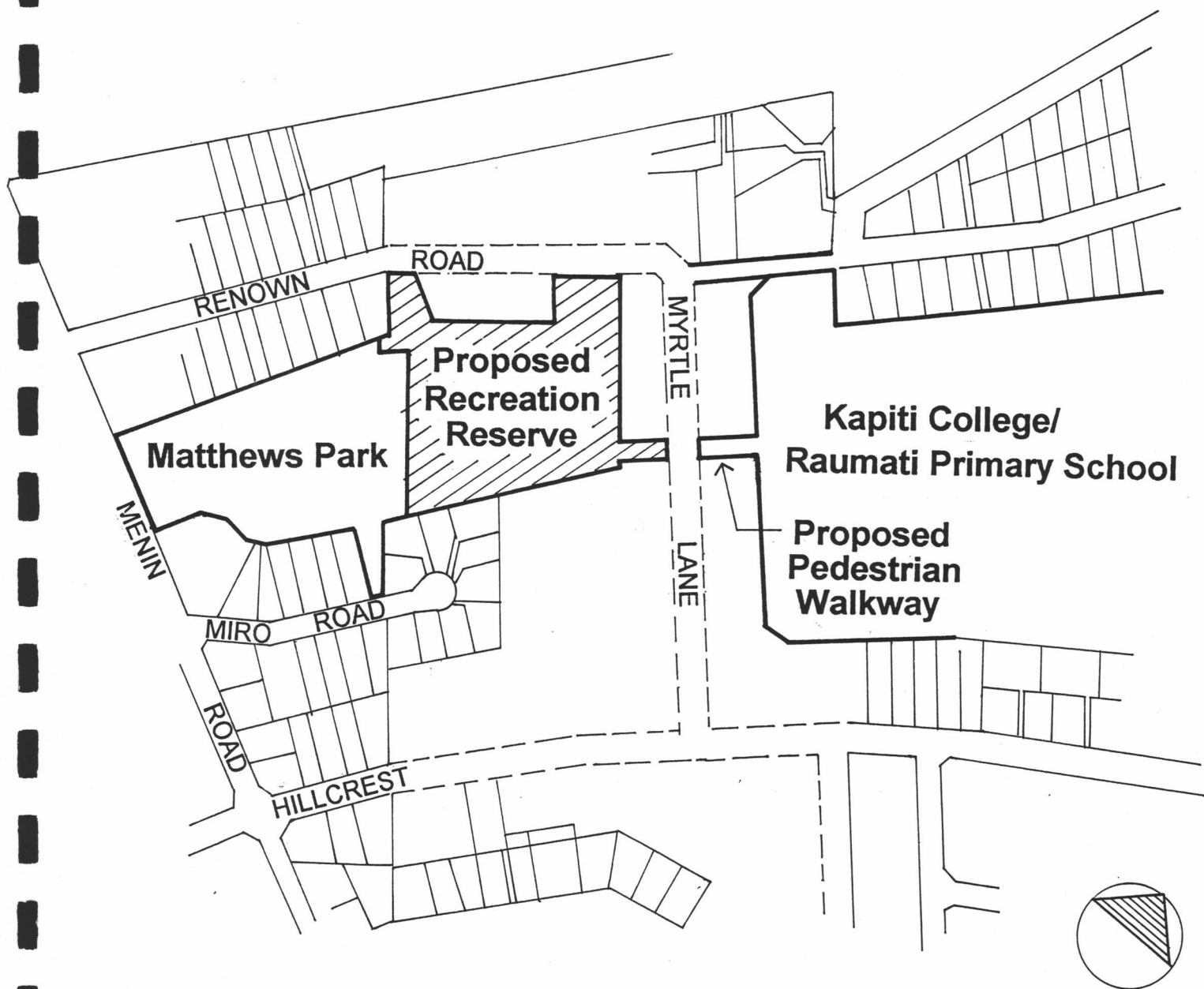
It is also recognised that this type of problem occurs less where the local community is actively involved in park projects and management. Community involvement and consultation is another avenue which may be explored, therefore.

### **Policies**

- i      Unauthorised vehicle access shall not be permitted in the Park except at the Menin Road car park.
- ii     Dogs shall not be permitted in the Park. This may be enforced under the appropriate by-law at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent.
- 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.

### **3.16 Development**

- 3.16.1 Development, whether it is 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.
- 3.16.2 Major development is likely to occur at Matthews Park when the undeveloped land north of the Park is subdivided. This is likely to see Renown Road extended, possibly linking through to Hillcrest Road, and a reserve contribution added to the Park of sufficient area to accommodate an additional playing field.



**PROPOSED RECREATION RESERVE  
ADJACENT TO MATTHEWS PARK**

Scale 1:5000

3.16.3. Several issues and opportunities will need to be considered early on in the planning stage of this development.

- There is a potential to extend local open space linkages by providing pedestrian connections from Matthews Park to the Kapiti College/Raumati Primary School grounds with Weka Park and Raumati Marine Gardens close beyond. Appropriate location of access to the reserve contribution would facilitate this opportunity.
- Regrading and levelling the undeveloped dune land will be necessary to form a playing field. The area to be allocated as reserve contribution should be carefully chosen to minimise earthworks and a landscape plan prepared to ensure that the earthworks are sympathetic to natural landforms.
- The reserve contribution must be integrated with the existing Park in terms of landscape character, visual and pedestrian connections and Park uses.
- Multiple use objectives may be further achieved by the provision of extra facilities for summer sports.

#### Policies

- i Only development that is in accordance with the aim and objectives of the Management Plan shall be permitted.
- ii In the event of a reserve contribution being added to the north of the Park, the additional land shall be planned and developed as an integrated part of Matthews Park and the local open space network.