



WEKA PARK Management Plan



KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**WEKA PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

August 1993

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PREFACE

1. Introduction

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

2.0 Management Plans

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

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

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

- 2.2 A Management Plan has several requirements:

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

- (iv) To remain appropriate, it must provide for review so that changed or changing circumstances maybe taken into account.
- 2.3 A comprehensive Management Plan is a means of ensuring continuity of management. It is also a means of explaining to the general public the reasons behind the decisions made by the Kapiti Coast District Council.
- 2.4 While a Management Plan provides the overall direction for ongoing management, there is generally a need for an annual programme of special works to be drawn up and priorities assigned. An effective way for this to be achieved is for a management schedule to be prepared which would be updated annually and would be available to the public. The management schedule should specifically cover two aspects:
 - (i) A description of the special works to be completed in the year.
 - (ii) A budget with specific costings of works to be completed in that year.
- 3.0 **Management Plan Format**
- 3.1 The Management Plan begins with a basic description of the reserve and its uses. This is by no means exhaustive and additional descriptive information is included where necessary in the later Policy sections. The Aim(s) and Objectives of the Management Plan are then identified, followed by a Policies Section which sets out the ways in which the aim(s) and objectives are to be achieved.
- 3.2 The Policy section has been written so as to provide a complete reference on each particular topic rather than having to refer to several sections to gain a complete understanding. Under each Policy heading relevant background information provides the rationale to the policy statement that follow it. The policies are grouped under three headings: Administration and Management, Management of Resources and Use and Development.

M W Cardiff
Reserves Superintendent

PART ONE: DESCRIPTION

1.1 Legal Description and Location

1.1.1 Weka Park consists of 4.7146 hectares of land comprising:

- Pt Lot 30 DP 13490
- Lot 71 DP 13961
- Lot 103 DP 14480
- Lot 104 DP 27932
- Pt closed road.

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

1.1.2 The Park is located in Raumati, a short distance from the Raumati shopping centre and about half a kilometre from the beach. The main road frontage lies along Weka Road with secondary access points off Alexander Road, Tui Road, Karaka Grove and Kowhai Grove. The Wharemauku Stream runs through the northern part of the Park.

1.2 Physical and Natural Features

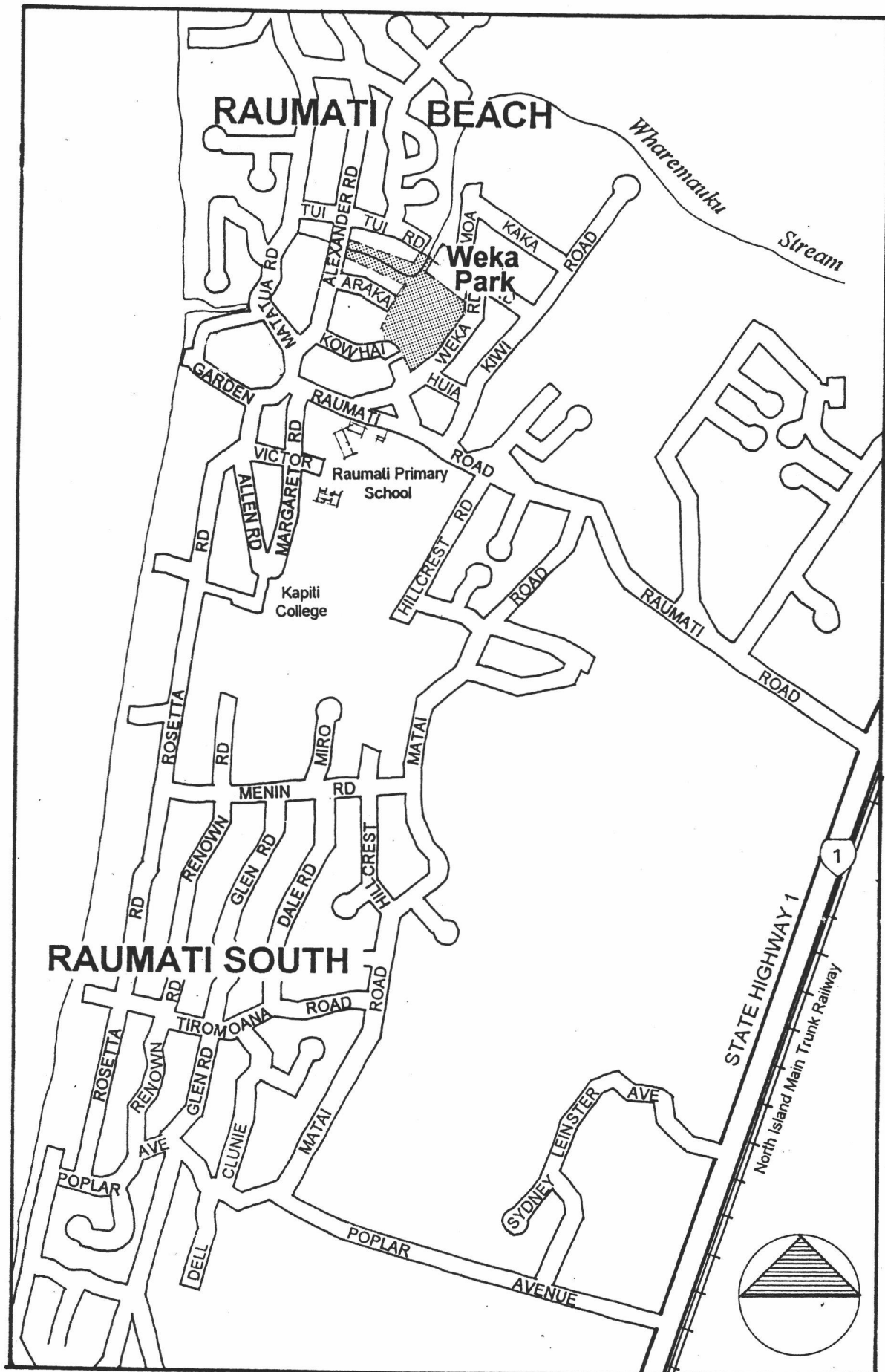
1.2.1 Raumati occupies an area of undulating stable sand dune country. The main part of the Park adjacent to Weka Road has been extensively levelled to form playing fields with rising ground to the west and low mounding at the south end. A drainage ditch runs for a short distance along the south-western boundary and another runs along part of the northern boundary from Weka Road. This large, flat area effectively forms a basin overlooked by housing on the surrounding dunes. A narrower strip of land extends north-west from the playing fields to Alexander Road. Here, natural features are more evident with gently rolling contours typical of the dune land forms and the Wharemauku Stream flowing through from Tui Road to Alexander Road.

1.2.2 The soils of this area are classified as yellow-brown sands but vary according to topography and age of the dunes. Generally, soils are sandy and free-draining with better developed top soils on the older, stable dunes. The soil on the playing field surface has been extensively modified with the importation of clay-based soil.

1.2.3 The climate is characterised by typically warm summers and mild winters. Rainfall is 800 - 1000mm per annum, evenly distributed through the year. West to north-west winds prevail, with quite frequent gales.

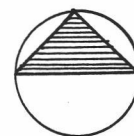
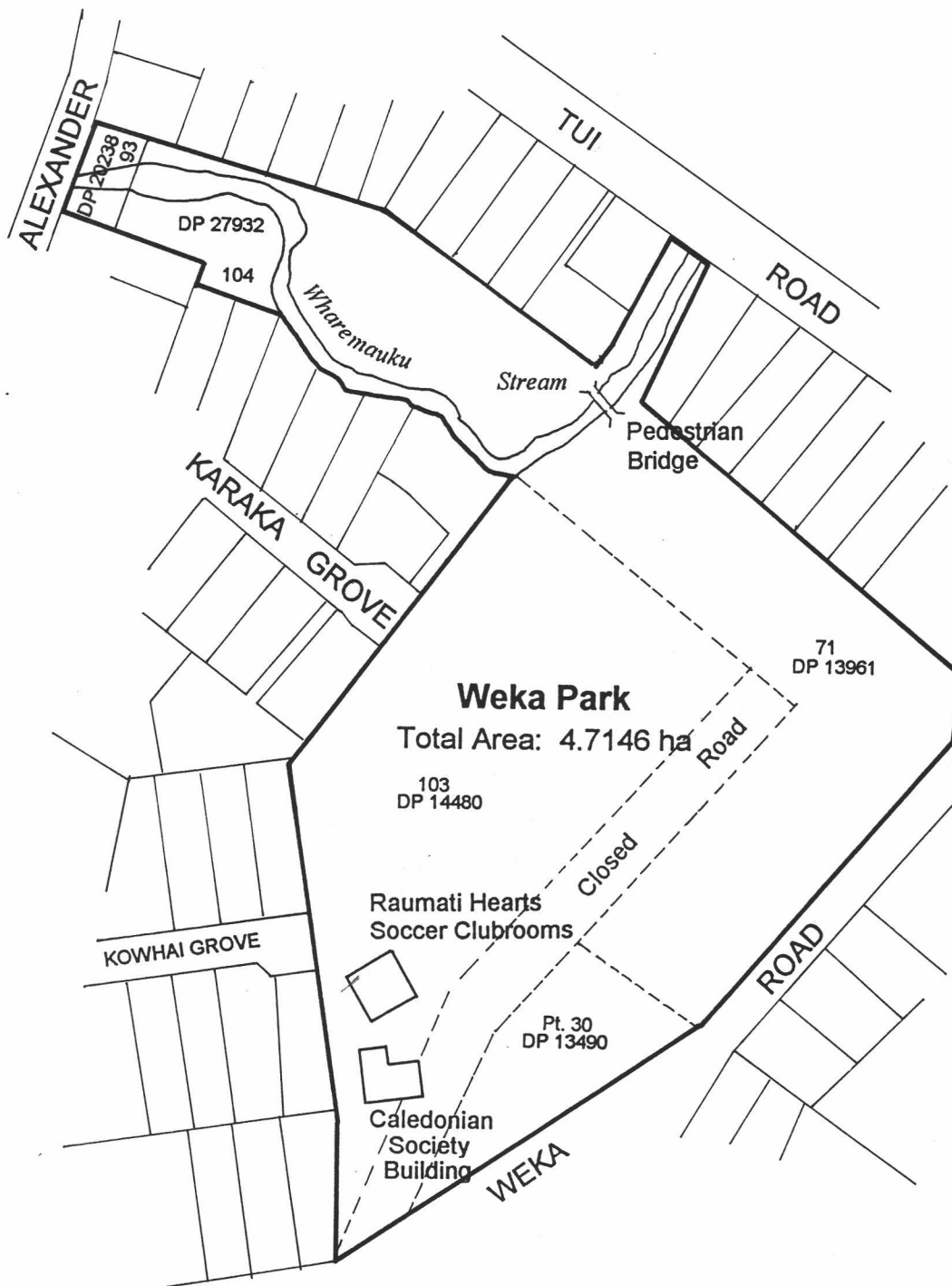
1.2.4 The Park is maintained in mown grass with scattered specimen trees mainly around the outer edges. These include:

- a line of well established specimen Leyland cypress along the Road Reserve area in Weka Road;



LOCATION PLAN





Scale 1:2000

Legal Description

- several medium-sized eucalyptus at the entrance in the southern corner;
- some scattered trees and shrubs on the west bank overlooking the playing fields;
- some poplar and willow along Wharemauku Stream.
- a fine ngaio specimen with some native shrub planting at the Alexander Road entrance.

Some rank weed growth occurs along the stream.

1.3 History and Present Use

- 1.3.1 The Park was designated a Recreation Reserve in 1968.
- 1.3.2 The Raumati Hearts Soccer Clubrooms were built in the southern corner of the Park in 1975, followed shortly after by the Caledonian Society building close by.
- 1.3.3 Floodlights were installed around the northern soccer pitch in 1978 and in the following winter the ground was closed for upgrading. Difficulties continued with establishing an acceptable playing surface and in 1984 upgrading of the entire playing field surface was again carried out with extensive drainage improvements. Several thousand cubic metres of clay-based soil was imported to complete this work. In 1986 a storm water main was laid through the Park from Weka Street to Karaka Grove and, at the same time, underground irrigation pipework was laid. An irrigation well was drilled in 1993 to provide the Park with its own water supply.
- 1.3.4 Concern has been periodically expressed by members of the public over the maintenance and risk to child safety of the Wharemauku Stream. Parts of the stream were sandbagged in the early 1980s to prevent erosion.
- 1.3.5 The northern of the two playgrounds was built by the Lions Club in 1989.

PART TWO: AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aim

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

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 Weka 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 Weka 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) following 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 Weka 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.
- 3.3.2 It is also evident that some neighbouring residents appreciate the use and visual amenity of the adjacent open space. Several properties in the Wharemauku Stream area have gates opening into the Park and manage their gardens to preserve an outlook over it.

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 Council's reserve lands are gradually being brought in to line with this policy.
- 3.4.4 Currently, the Raumati Hearts Soccer Club holds a lease and licence to occupy the club rooms built over the facilities block and the Caledonian Society holds a lease for its building. While the soccer club's lease clearly facilitates recreational use of the Park, the Caledonian Society's use is less easily justified in terms of Park aim and objectives. Used more as a community hall, its use might be more appropriate to a local purpose reserve.

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.
- iv. The appropriateness of the Caledonian Society's lease shall be reviewed and, if necessary, alternative venues for the Society investigated.

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

Policies

- i The Park shall be maintained regularly to a high standard and damage or environmental problems 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 shall be controlled and, if possible, exterminated.
- vi Noxious, invasive or unwanted weeds shall be controlled and, if possible, eliminated.
- vii The use of herbicides and pesticides shall be used as little as possible and shall be strictly controlled. Where particular safety concerns arise, local residents shall be consulted prior to use.

3.7 Signs

3.7.1 Signs are necessary at Weka Park 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 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 sponsors' 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 Weka Park, in the course of the sign review, integrated name and information signs are needed at both the Alexander Road and Weka Road entrances. The name sign at Weka Road is currently located on the mound

behind the playground where it is not easily seen from the road. A more visible location is needed, to be determined when upgrading the design of the main entrance (see 3.15.3).

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. Weka Park provides an open space outlook for the overlooking housing on the surrounding dunes. Conversely, the dune landforms and mainly well vegetated housing provides an important backdrop for the Park. This relationship can be enhanced visually integrating the character of land forms and vegetation around the Park boundaries with that of the neighbourhood.

3.8.2 Within the Park there are three distinct character areas:

1. The Southern Corner

This is separated from the main playing fields by low mounding and is occupied by a playground, two club buildings and sealed parking/access for the buildings. Three eucalyptus trees and several Leyland cypress on the road frontage are the only significant vegetation. This is a self-contained area, dominated by structures and, apart from the playground, essentially a service area.

2. The Playing Fields

This is a large expanse of flat, open ground defined by the line of Leyland cypress along Weka Road, the lower slopes of a dune along the western edge and boundary fences to the north. A simple grassy verge along Weka Road is used informally for parking but the regularly spaced line of trees is a comparatively formal element appropriate to this public frontage. The western slope is a significant feature for it provides some screening from houses and a strong edge to the playing fields. The "dot" planting is not enhancing, however, as it has neither sufficient mass to provide visual structure nor appropriate species to be specimen/shade trees. The northern boundary is a stark edge with visually significant planting occurring only on adjacent properties.

3. The Wharemauku Stream Area

This is a long thin area separated from the playing fields by the stream which flows south from Tui Road and then bends sharply to flow west to Alexander Road. The ground slopes down to the stream in gently undulating contours with widely spaced play equipment at the western end. Apart from some willow and poplar along the stream there is little vegetation in the Park area itself but the adjacent properties which slope down on each side provide a generally well vegetated setting. A fine ngaio tree with some native shrub planting and a stone wall create an attractive entrance to the Park. This part of the Park is characterised by a more intimate scale and more natural features.

- 3.8.3 Weka Park, then, comprises two main areas of contrasting character. This contrast provides interest and opportunities for diverse recreational use but, at the same time, there is potential to develop a consistent landscape treatment to better unify the Park as one open space.
- 3.8.4 A strong and consistent planting structure is needed to visually link the three different character areas and integrate the Park edges with the vegetation on adjacent properties. This should concentrate particularly upon exposed boundary fences and the slope to the west of the playing fields. Mass and group planting is needed to achieve impact. A high proportion of native species such as ngaio, karaka, manuka, karo, pittosporum, tainui, rangiora and taupata are to be used. These species are not only adapted to local conditions but will restore something of the area's natural character.
- 3.8.5 The semi-formal avenue planting along Weka Road is to be preserved as it allows clear access from the street while defining the Park edge. The Leyland cypress are not the most appealing of specimen trees but are to be preserved because of their relative maturity. A second line of more attractive shade trees is to be planted along the vehicle barriers for extra shade, shelter and visual definition of this edge.
- 3.8.6 The Wharemauku Stream is a natural feature which warrants enhancement. As often happens in urban areas, modification to control flooding and bank erosion has converted it to something of an open drain. Improved maintenance with tree planting would transform the stream to a positive feature.
- 3.8.7 The stream should also be considered in a wider context as a significant open space link and walking route. An informal track already follows the stream north to Tui Road and the southern end of the aerodrome, while a more developed path connects Alexander and Matatua Roads along the stream to the west. There is potential to develop a walkway along the stream which would connect the Paraparaumu town centre with the Raumati beach front via Weka Park. With this in mind, riparian planting along the whole stream should be planned to achieve an attractive and consistent tree-lined character. The Kapiti Coast District Council intends to conduct a comprehensive open space study of its jurisdiction. This potential walkway needs to be investigated in that study.
- 3.8.8 Other aspects affecting landscape character include development of entrances, playground planting and the visual character of buildings. These aspects are covered in more detail in other relevant sections of this Plan.

Policies

- i The landscape character and scenic value of the Park shall be protected and enhanced.
- ii A planting programme shall be planned and implemented to visually unify the Park using hardy species and simple design appropriate to the local character and the active recreation use of the Park.

- iii The potential to develop a walkway along the Wharemauku Stream shall be investigated in the course of a Kapiti Coast District Open Space Study and the stream environs in Weka Park managed as part of a potential walkway.

3.9 Vegetation

- 3.9.1 Well established trees are something of a rarity in Weka Park. Therefore, the few existing trees are to be protected and managed to maintain their health and longevity.
- 3.9.2 For some years to come, vegetation management will focus upon establishing a planting structure for the Park with an emphasis upon using local native species. These species are not only adapted to local conditions but will contribute to strengthening local identity in the Raumati area. This native planting can provide a consistent framework through the Park within which introduced specimens (including pohutukawa which is not naturally of local distribution) can be included for seasonal colour or fast-growing shade trees.
- 3.9.3 Mass planting of shrubby species at comparatively close spacings and group planting of specimen trees is to be adopted. Visual impact is achieved sooner, the plants provide some shelter for each other and, in the case of shrubby species, the plants close over the ground sooner, reducing maintenance.
- 3.9.4 Plant survival 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.
- 3.9.5 The Council's Parks and Recreation Department has many reserves to maintain and only limited resources with which 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 is to be concentrated in a particular area or areas rather than distributing plants thinly throughout the Park.

Policies

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

3.10 Stream Management

3.10.1 Stream Management at Weka Park must be considered at two levels:

1. The Stream as a Waterway

The stream is a natural water course which drains a small catchment in the hills behind Paraparaumu and the coastal lowland. Water quality, siltation and flooding potential in the Park are largely determined by processes occurring upstream including land use, riparian management and discharges into the stream. Similarly, stream management at Weka Park may have effects downstream.

Effective stream management must, therefore, take place at the catchment-wide level which is the responsibility of the Operational Services Department of the Council. Management within the Park must conform to overall stream management objectives and must actively observe and report on the effects of upstream management.

2. The Stream as a Park Feature

There are, nevertheless, certain aspects of stream management which occur at a site specific level. These include:

Safety. Concern has been expressed by members of the public about the potential danger of the stream to children. Whilst recognising that there is a legal requirement to fence swimming pools, the Council considers that it is impracticable to fence all open water in public areas. The cost of fencing or covering waterways in the District would be prohibitive. Responsibility must, essentially, lie with parents to adequately supervise children in public places. Notwithstanding this, however, some planting will be considered to deter children from stream edges where there is a particularly high drop into the channel.

Stream Maintenance. Algal growth and rubbish dumping are a common problem in urban streams which downgrade visual appeal and contribute to water pollution. These require periodic clean-up operations and strict enforcement of dumping prohibitions.

Amenity Value. Much of the stream at Weka Park has been modified for flood protection, including deepening of the channel and timber retaining walls to control bank erosion. Rank weed growth occurs in places along the banks. These factors detract from its visual appeal and impart the impression that the stream is an open drain.

The stream could become a more positive feature by introducing appropriate riparian planting on the less accessible banks and by developing a stream-side walk.



The southern corner is a self-contained service and playground area. It is proposed that the main entrance be relocated further along Weka Road.



The Playing fields:- additional planting is needed to relieve the expanse of open ground and provide visual structure.

Policies

- i The Parks and Recreation Department and Operational Services Departments shall consult about management objectives and practices for the Wharemauku Stream.
- ii The stream shall be maintained as an open waterway but the Council's Parks and Recreation Department shall confer with local residents to identify particular areas of concern about safety.
- iii The stream channel shall be kept clear of weeds and debris.
- iv Opportunities to enhance the stream as an amenity feature shall be investigated and, where practicable, implemented.

3.11 Sportsgrounds

- 3.11.1 There are two soccer fields and a cricket pitch at Weka Park used for both organised competition sports and informal ball games etc. 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 are adequate and to prevent inappropriate use and over-use.
- 3.11.2 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 surface shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for competition play.
- ii 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.
- iii Equipment used for sporting activities including goal posts, screens and floodlights, shall be installed and maintained by the ground users and, where the equipment would interfere with the next season's sport, shall be dismantled within 14 days of the end of the season.

3.12 Children's Play Area

- 3.12.1 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.

- 3.12.2 The playground adjacent to Weka Road includes swings and several limbing structures of a standard design used in numerous Kapiti Coast District reserves. It is well defined as a separate area by the mounding which separates it from the playing fields but tree planting is required to provide shade and shelter and to define an edge between the play and parking area.
- 3.12.3 The play area at the Alexander Road end of the Park consists of several play structures spaced widely on gently undulating contours. Visibility from adjacent properties needs to be preserved here for security in this more secluded location and some shade trees are required.
- 3.12.4 As both sets of play equipment have now been in place for over a decade, a comprehensive review of 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.
- 3.12.5 The design, suitability of equipment and additional opportunities should also be reviewed to assess the need for longer-term upgrading. There is potential at both these sites, for instance, to make use of ground contours 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.
- 3.12.6 Consultation with children and parents who use the playgrounds is essential to identify use levels, needs and issues. Moreover, local participation in planning, upgrading and planting the playgrounds is likely to encourage use and foster neighbourhood pride in the Park as a whole.

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 areas to provide shade and shelter.
- v The need for upgrading the play areas 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.

3.13 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture

- 3.13.1 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.

3.13.2 Buildings

The two club buildings are comparatively unobtrusive, sited in the southern corner where they are partially screened by mounding. However, a co-ordinated colour scheme that is less contrasting with the tones of Park vegetation is needed on both buildings to improve their visual integration.

In the future, there may be 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.

3.13.3 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. Associated planting at Weka Park would reduce their impact.

3.13.4 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. Planting along exposed fences is needed.

3.13.5 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 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

3.14 Recreation

- 3.14.1 Multiple use of public parks is a principle to be fostered wherever possible to maximise efficient use of resources.
- 3.14.2 At present the two club buildings are used respectively by the Raumati Hearts Soccer Club and the Caledonian Society. Their history of use and financial commitment to construction of the buildings must be recognised but should not be seen as the right to exclusive use. The appropriateness of the Caledonian Club's use has already been discussed in 3.4.4. Shared use of the buildings by sports and recreation groups for seasonal or more regular use is to be investigated.
- 3.14.3 Although the main Park 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 fields and buildings 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).

3.15 Access and Parking

- 3.15.1 Vehicle access is only permitted behind the buildings and in a small adjacent carpark. A removable vehicle barrier has been installed to prevent use of this access as a through route between Weka and Kowhai Roads.
- 3.15.2 Plentiful parking is available along the Weka Road frontage where vehicle barriers have been set well back from the road to allow informal parking on the grassy verge. This surface has withstood such use to date but will be monitored for signs of wear.
- 3.15.3 At present the main entrance is located at the carpark adjacent to the Weka Road playground. This is a self-contained area separated from the main open space and most users of the sportsground will park further along Weka Road and will miss information located at the present entrance. A more functional location would be further along Weka Road where the mounding meets the street, possibly with a pedestrian path connecting the club buildings to draw users through the entrance area. Removal of one or two trees with additional planting on each side would be necessary to make an obvious opening along the frontage.
- 3.15.4 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.

Policies

- i Public vehicle access shall be restricted to the Weka Road frontage and the existing parking in the southern corner.
- ii Sealed parking shall be developed along the Weka Road frontage if the condition of the grass verge deteriorates.
- iii Paths shall be developed where necessary to facilitate pedestrian access and protect the Park's surface.

3.16 Controls and Prohibitions

- 3.16.1 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:

3.16.2 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 Weka 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 Council 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.

3.16.3 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.
- 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.

3.17 Development

- 3.17.1 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.

Policy

- i Only development that is in accordance with the aim and objectives of the Management Plan shall be permitted.