

PARAPARAUMU DOMAIN Management Plan



KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARAPARAUMU DOMAIN

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

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PARAPARAUMU DOMAIN

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Contents	Page No.
Preface	i
Part One: Description	
1.1 Legal Description and Location	1
1.2 Physical and Natural Features	1
1.3 History	2
1.4 Present Use	2
Part Two: Aim and Objectives	
2.1 Aim	4
2.2 Objectives	4
Part Three: Policies	
Administration and Management	
3.1 Administration	5
3.2 Interpretation of Policies	5
3.3 Adjacent Land Use	6
3.4 Leases and Licences	6
3.5 Water Use	7
3.6 Environmental Controls	8
3.7 Signs	9
Management of Resources	
3.8 Landscape Character	11
3.9 Vegetation	12
3.10 Sportsgrounds	14
3.11 Children's Play Area	15
3.12 Buildings, Structures and Site Furniture	16
Use and Development	
3.13 Recreation	20
3.14 Access and Parking	21
3.15 Controls and Prohibitions	21
3.16 Development	23

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 The Paraparaumu Domain consists of 5.2467 hectares consisting of:

- Pt Lot 5 A Blk VIII DP 463
- Lease Railway
- Lots 1-5 DP 15862
- Lots 13-20 DP 15862
- Lots 17-20 DP 16188
- Lot 66 DP 15862.

1.1.2 The Domain lies about one kilometre north of the Paraparaumu town centre close to State Highway One. It is bounded by Tutanekai Street to the south, the main trunk railway line to the east and residential housing to the north. The western boundary lies along Aorangi Road in two sections with some residential housing in between.

1.2 Physical and Natural Features

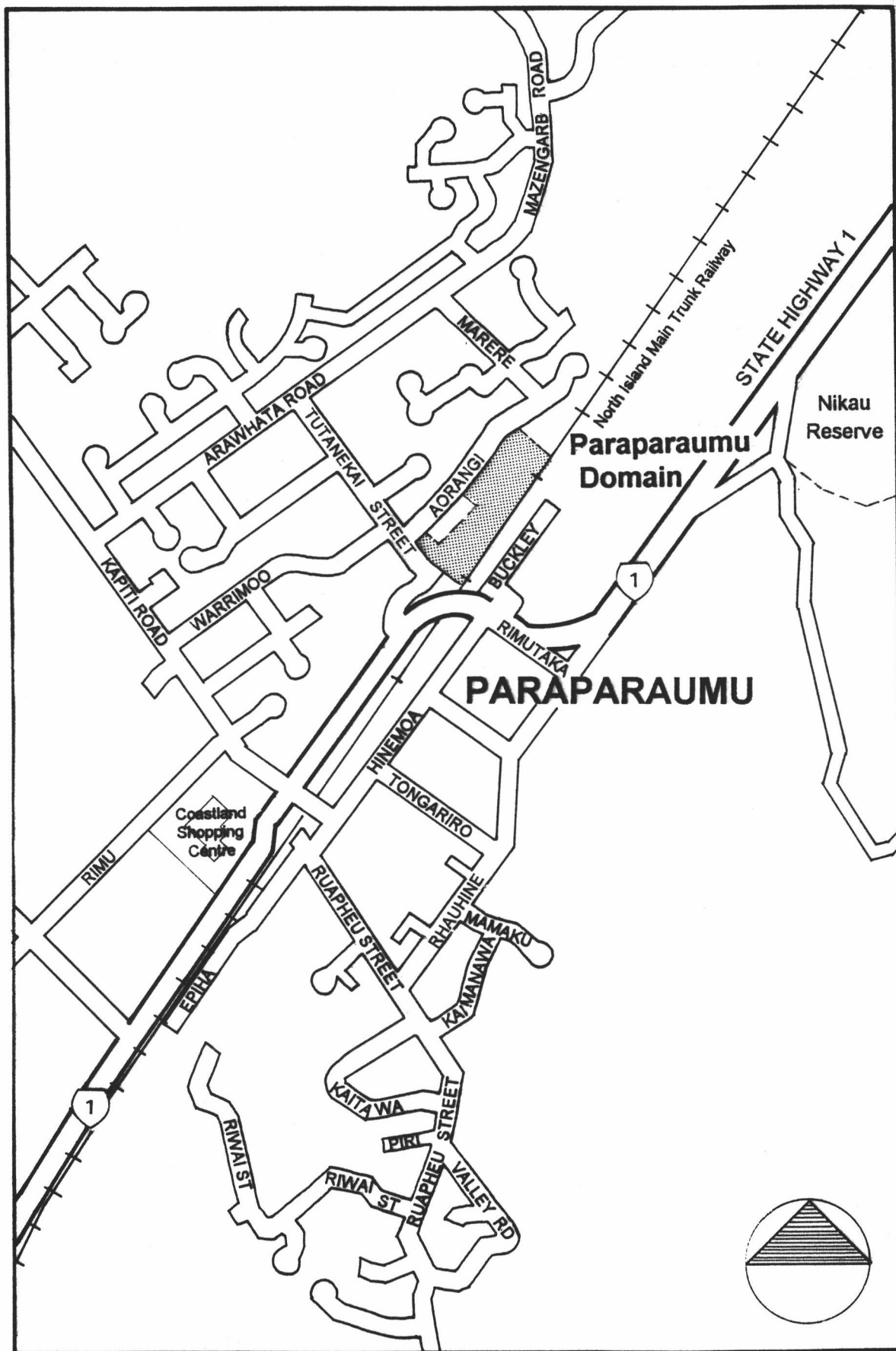
1.2.1 Most of the Domain is low-lying ground, previously swamp, which has been levelled and drained to accommodate two sportsgrounds and associated facilities. To the west the ground rises to a low landform running parallel to Aorangi Road and across the north end of the site. A Memorial Hall and playground occupy this higher ground at the south-west end.

1.2.2 The soil is naturally peaty and poorly drained but has been extensively modified by drainage and levelling to form sports fields.

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

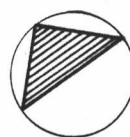
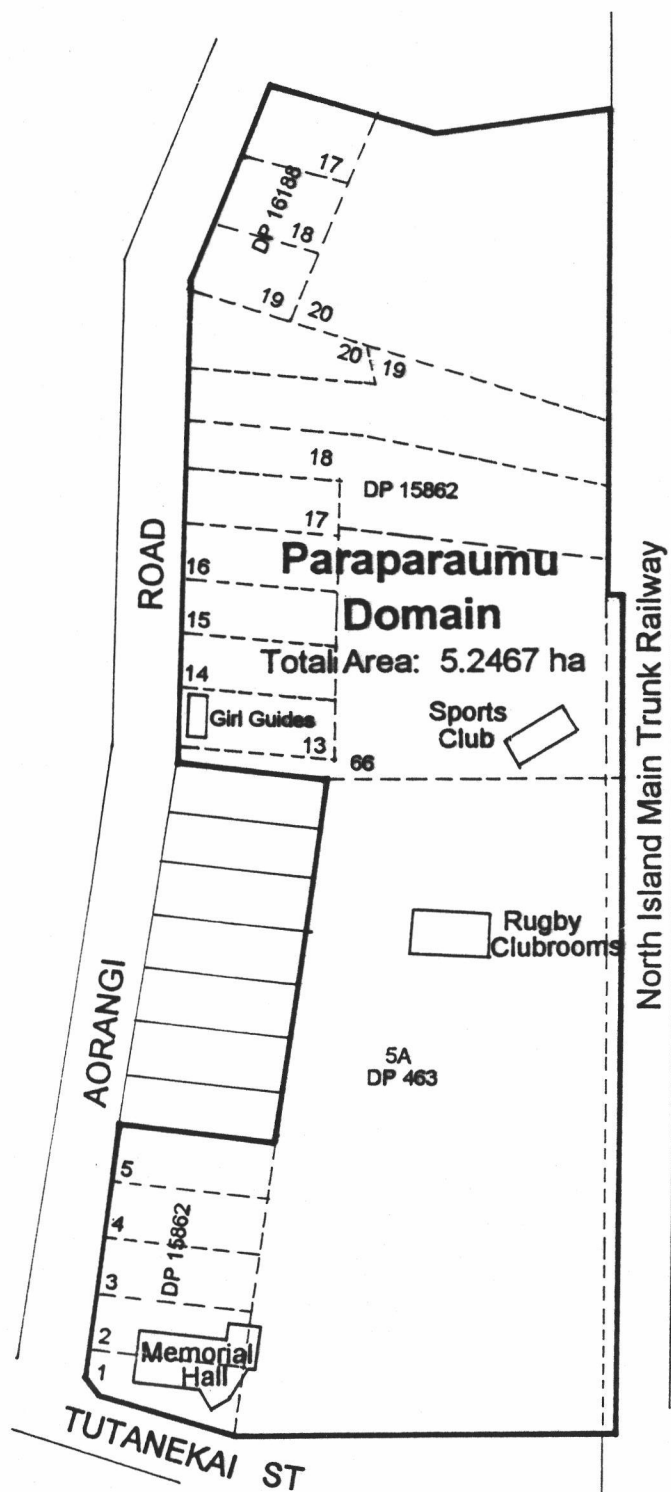
1.2.4 Most of the Domain is maintained in mown grass around which a basic vegetation structure already exists. The significant vegetation can be summarised as follows:

- a line of mature pohutukawa on the southern boundary;
- some macrocarpa on the land form between the rugby ground and playground and backing onto adjacent residential properties;
- some fine specimens of karaka and manuka in the central area;
- mature deciduous trees around the north and west of the northern sportsground including fine specimens of walnut as well as some sycamore, silver birch, weeping willow, and lombardy poplar.



LOCATION PLAN





Scale 1:2000
Legal Description

1.3 History

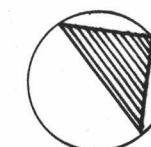
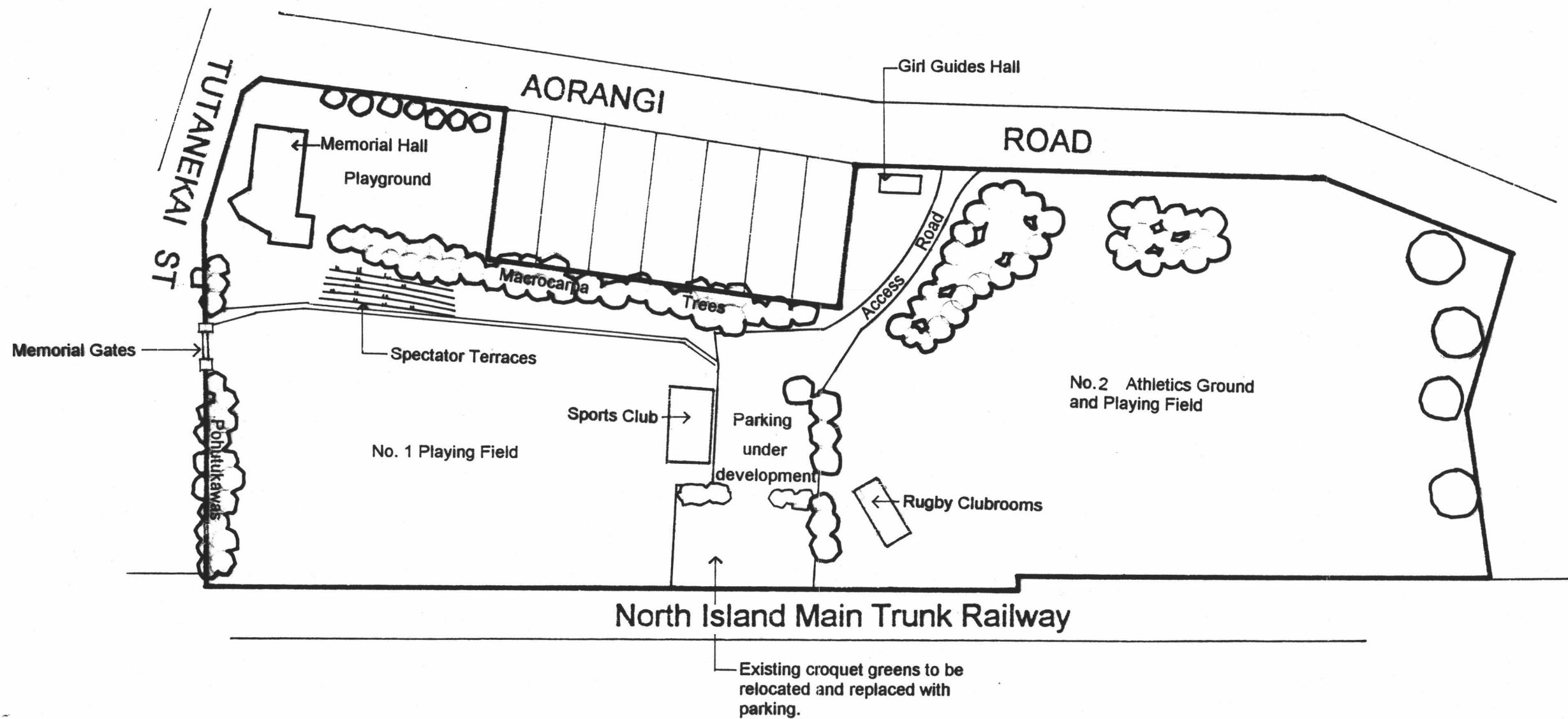
- 1.3.1 Recreational use of the Domain dates from the 1930s when local RSA members and other community volunteers developed the southern area into a playing field. A Domain Management Committee was formed and administered the area until 1967 when the Hutt County Council took over.
- 1.3.2 The local community erected a war memorial archway at the Tutanekai Street entrance which now commemorates local soldiers lost in both World Wars, in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. The Baucke family donated the wrought iron gates.
- 1.3.3 Until the mid-1960s the Domain was the only developed sports area in Paraparaumu and attracted numerous activities including bowling, tennis, rugby, croquet, athletics, cycling, softball, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. Many buildings, sheds and store rooms were built for these activities over the years, some of which still remain.
- 1.3.4 The Paraparaumu War Memorial Hall was built in 1954, financed jointly by the Hutt County Council and a Government Subsidy Grant.

1.4 Present Use

- 1.4.1 The Domain accommodates a full-sized rugby field at the south end, which is Paraparaumu's main rugby ground, used as a 'charge ground' for important matches. It is the home ground for the Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club which has its clubrooms at the north end of the field, built in 1975.
- 1.4.2 The northern playing field is an important local athletics ground, attracting crowds of 2,000 or more for competition meetings. It is also used as a cricket ground and a night training ground for athletics, hockey, soccer and rugby. Clubrooms at the south end of this field are occupied by the Aorangi Sports Club Inc. (the Kapiti Old Boys' Cricket Club and Paraparaumu Athletic Club collectively).
- 1.4.3 Between the two sportsgrounds is a partly developed carpark and two croquet greens. This entire central area is to be developed into carparking and the croquet greens relocated to the new Mazengarb Road Reserve. The Bass Amateur Cycling Clubroom located beside the croquet club is also to be relocated to a local purpose reserve.
- 1.4.4 Both grounds are also used for group picnics, Fire Brigade training and competitions and Fun Day events.
- 1.4.5 The War Memorial Hall is used extensively by the local community for badminton, karate, judo, indoor bowls, jazzercise, dances, discos, social functions and as a meeting venue. A prefab building behind it is used by the Paraparaumu Amateur Radio Association in association with local Civil Defence who occupy an adjacent caravan base. These facilities are also used to give Civil Defence training to groups such as Girl Guides and Venturer Scouts.

1.4.6 A children's playground occupies a site next to the Memorial Hall on Aorangi Road.

1.4.7 Adjacent to the Aorangi Road entrance is a Girl Guides Association hall.



Scale 1:1500

Paraparaumu Domain Site Features

PART TWO: AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aim

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

2.2 Objectives

- 2.2.1 To develop and enhance the Domain's open space qualities.
- 2.2.2 To provide appropriate facilities to encourage compatible multiple use of the Domain for both organised and informal recreation.

PART THREE: POLICIES

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Administration

- 3.1.1 Paraparaumu Domain 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.
- 3.2.1 As the Domain 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 use needs and local concerns. Interested and affected parties include sports clubs with formal use arrangements, local residents and informal users.
- 3.2.3 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 Domain.

Policies

- i The Recreation Reserve classification shall be retained.
- ii The Domain 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, Domain users and interested community groups shall be consulted about management issues and their participation in Domain 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 (Part Three) refers to "the Council" or "Council" this means the Kapiti Coast District Council.

3.3 Adjacent Land Use

- 3.3.1 Paraparaumu Domain 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 Domain 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 the 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, leases are held by the Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club for the rugby clubrooms, the Aorangi Sports Club Inc. for clubrooms above the main facilities block and the Paraparaumu District Branch of the Girl Guides Association for their hall. These leases are likely to be extended.

However, the Cycling Club and Croquet Club are to be relocated to other sites.

Policies

- i Leases and licences shall be negotiated on terms to encourage use of the Domain'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 Leases for the cycling club and croquet club shall be terminated subject to suitable alternative locations being found.

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. There is no separate water supply at Paraparaumu Domain, but a well is to be drilled so that a higher standard of playing surface can be maintained during the summer.
- 3.5.2 The taking of ground water is subject to a water right permit issued by the Wellington Regional Council, which specifies the quantity of water and extraction times allowed. Permits are issued for a specified number of years and must be re-applied for upon expiry. A separate permit must be obtained for the initial drilling of the well.

Policies

- i An irrigation well shall be drilled as soon as possible.
- ii The necessary water right permit shall be obtained and renewed as necessary thereafter.
- iii Ground water extraction shall not exceed the permitted usage levels set out in the Water Right.

3.6 Environmental Controls

- 3.6.1 The extent and type of public use and the condition of the Domain itself needs to be monitored and appropriate action taken to ensure the enjoyment and safety of users and protection of the Domain 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 condition were frequently mentioned. High standards of maintenance are required to facilitate safe and enjoyable public use and to promote pride in the Domain.
- 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 Domain 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 Domain from the public to protect public safety or to protect the Domain environment. For example, flooding, reparation of extensive damage (such as storm damage) or major redevelopment.

Policies

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

3.7 Signs

3.7.1 Signs are necessary in public parks to:

- identify places or routes;
- inform about public use and safety;
- in some cases, provide information of interest about the site or locality. (This is generally referred to as an interpretation).

These signs are the responsibility of the administering body.

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

- 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).
- Advertising hoardings, usually erected at sports grounds to promote sponsors.

3.7.3 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.

Non-standard signs may be designed for specific sites, however, to complement important features or themes such as historic monuments.

3.7.4 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.

3.7.5 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 of sponsors 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.

3.7.6 Aspects to be considered in the Paraparaumu Domain sign review include:

- developing appropriate signage at the Aorangi Street entrance and central carpark to reflect the increasing use of this access point as the main entrance;
- the possibility of installing a replacement name sign at the Tutanekai Street entrance which is better integrated with the style and materials of the Memorial Gate and fence. This could be located on the fence to the west of the Gate.

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 In terms of both landscape character and function there are two distinct areas in the Domain:

- the Domain 'proper', comprising the two sportsgrounds and intervening parking areas, and
- the south-west corner with the Memorial Hall and playground.

3.8.2 The Domain 'Proper'

This area occupies a natural hollow bordered by grassed banks to the west, east and north giving a sheltered amphitheatre effect. This gives the basis for a "village green" type of character in both sportsgrounds.

The rugby field is more formal due to the Memorial Gate at the south end and spectator terraces built into the slope on the western side. A line of mature pohutukawa along the southern boundary is the principle vegetation which visually integrates with the mature pohutukawa and ngaio on State High One behind.

The athletics field is a more informal, tranquil space, with simple grassed banks planted with mature deciduous trees to the north and west.

The intervening area is in a state of transition at present as obsolete buildings and the croquet green are to be removed and parking developed. However, a mature stand of karaka trees is a significant feature to be preserved.

3.8.3 The South-west Corner

This area occupies slightly elevated ground above Tutanekai Street and Aorangi Road. The Memorial Hall is a comparatively large building occupying a prominent position on the street corner. Its site is essentially given over to sealed vehicle access with little vegetation and consequently does not look like part of the Domain.

The adjacent playground also functions as a self-contained area as it is separated from the rugby field by higher ground with a security fence and low-growing macrocarpa trees on it. It essentially has a neighbourhood park character.

3.8.4 Landscape Development

The existing village green amphitheatre character of the main area needs to be preserved as it provides an attractive and deservedly popular setting for a wide range of recreational uses. This character needs to be strengthened by additional planting, particularly along the bare eastern boundary, to achieve two complementary open spaces encircled by land form and trees.



The athletics field is more informal with grassy banks and mature deciduous trees.



The rugby field is characterised by the formal Memorial Gate and spectator terraces and the mature pohutukawa pictured.

The existing planting character of each sportsground should be recognised so that there is a cohesive planting structure around each space. This would be pohutukawa and ngaio around the rugby ground and deciduous species around the athletics field. As specimen trees are generally slow growing, faster growing native species, such as manuka, mahoe and pittosporum, could also be used in both areas for temporary or background planting.

It is essential that the central carparking area is adequately screened by planting. It should serve as a transition zone between the character of the adjacent spaces with the appropriate species bordering each sportsground, mixed with the native species in the parking area itself.

It is also essential that the buildings in this area are integrated with their setting by providing adjacent planting and co-ordinated colour schemes.

Given the physical separation and contrasting uses of the playground and Memorial Hall, it is inevitable that the south-west corner remains distinct. However, a strong historic theme exists along the Tutanekai Street frontage in the form of the adjacent RSA building, the Memorial Gates and the Memorial Hall. These features could be given more continuity and the scale of the Memorial Hall partly screened by extending the pohutukawa planting right along the street frontage. Similar planting of a pohutukawa/ngaio mix on the bank behind the hall would reduce the starkness of the hall's setting.

Policies

- i The landscape character and scenic value of the Domain shall be protected and enhanced.
- ii A planting programme shall be planned and implemented to strengthen the spatial definition of the two sportsgrounds using species appropriate to the existing character of each.
- iii Opportunities to strengthen the Memorial theme along the Tutanekai Street frontage with consistent landscape treatment shall be investigated.
- iv The central parking area shall be adequately screened with planting appropriate to the character of the adjacent sportsgrounds.

3.9 Vegetation

- 3.9.1 The mature trees in the Domain are significant for their shelter, shade and visual character: in particular, the pohutukawa to the south, the karaka and manuka in the central area and the deciduous trees around the northern sports field. These trees must be protected and managed to maintain their health, visual form and ensure their longevity. Pruning should only be for reasons of public safety or tree health and must only be carried out by skilled personnel. It is unfortunate that the pohutukawa to be west of the Memorial Gate has been severely pruned to clear overhead lines. Placing the lines underground would enable this specimen to regain its height and would protect the other pohutukawa from pruning in the future.



The Memorial Gate:- a historic feature to be preserved.



The Memorial Hall:- there is potential to strengthen the historic memorial theme along the Tutanekai Street frontage with continuity of planting and an adapted colour scheme for the Hall.

- 3.9.2 The vestige of a phebalium hedge along part of the Aorangi Road boundary should be removed and a formal line of mainly deciduous trees planted right along the road boundary to replace the hedge and fill the gap in shelter at the north end. These trees should be species that will develop into tall spreading specimens, such as the walnuts already thriving on site. Groups of the same deciduous trees should extend down the west and north bank from the street planting to reinforce the existing tree groupings.
- 3.9.3 Scattered planting of Leyland cypress along the eastern railway boundary does not appear to be thriving. Ground conditions should be investigated and hardier species used on this side. As the specimen trees will take years to grow to a significant height, additional 'nurse' planting is to be used to provide some interim visual containment and shelter. Species are to be hardy native species along the rail boundary itself, such as griselinia, pittosporum and ngaio, which may be kept in the long-term as background screening behind the specimen trees. Further forward around the specimen trees themselves tradescantia can be used as a quick-growing temporary 'nurse' plant.
- 3.9.4 Similar close planting of native species mixed with tradescantia as a temporary nurse plant is to be carried out on the steep banks behind the Memorial Hall, central carparking area and bank above the access road.
- 3.9.5 Specific management of the macrocarpa trees growing along the boundary on top of the bank behind the car park and rugby spectator bank is required. These trees provide privacy and shelter to the adjacent private properties but have reached a size where the stability of the steep, sandy bank and ground in adjacent properties is threatened. Therefore, they are to be gradually pruned and thinned and underplanting introduced with the agreement of adjacent residents. At the next Managment Plan Review (in five years time) total removal and replacement with more suitable species will be investigated.
- 3.9.6 Irrigation of new planting from the proposed well will greatly facilitate plant establishment. However, 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.

Policies

- i The mature trees in the Domain are a significant landscape feature and shall be protected and maintained for good health.
- ii A planting programme shall be implemented as soon as practicable after installation of an irrigation well to strength the Domain's landscape character and shelter.

- iii In consultation with the residents in adjacent properties, the macrocarpa trees shall be managed to protect ground stability with a view to longer term removal and appropriate replacement planting.
- iv Sound horticultural techniques shall be applied to the planting and maintenance of the Domain's vegetation and tree pruning shall only be carried out by skilled tree specialists.
- v Temporary 'nurse' planting and background screen planting shall be used in association with slower growing specimen tree planting to provide interim shelter.

3.10 Sportsgrounds

- 3.10.1 The southern (or No. 1) playing field is the home ground for the Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club. Perimeter fencing enables spectator entry to be controlled and charges to be levied for important fixtures. Consequently, the ground must be maintained to a high standard suitable for senior competition play.
- 3.10.2 The northern (or No. 2) area has more complex maintenance requirements as it has a 440 metre athletics track around the perimeter, two long jump pits, a shot put circle and a cricket wicket. The Aorangi Sports Club installed floodlights in 1981 and since then the ground has also had intensive evening use for athletics in summer and rugby, women's hockey and soccer training in winter. The ground also accommodates two small size rugby fields for schoolboy competitions in winter.
- 3.10.3 The Council's Parks and Recreation Department undertakes the responsibility for maintaining the playing surface for sports groups, but the provision of equipment such as a cricket cage and floodlights is the responsibility of those groups.
- 3.10.4 A high standard of maintenance is required to ensure the ground is suitable for the various types of competition play. Monitoring is essential to ensure that winter drainage and summer irrigation is adequate and to prevent inappropriate use and over-use. The previous drainage problems appear to have been solved now but this will also need monitoring.

Policies

- i The team sport playing surfaces shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for senior, inter-club competition.
- ii The running track and other special ground areas required for athletics shall be maintained to a high standard suitable for regional athletics events.
- iii The No. 1 playing field shall be fenced and maintained to enable its use as a charge ground.

- iv The condition of the sportsground surfaces shall be regularly monitored. Training sessions and sporting fixtures shall be restricted or cancelled at the discretion of the Reserves Superintendent to protect the playing surface.
- v Equipment used for sporting activities such as goal posts and screens shall be installed and maintained by the ground users and, where the equipment would interfere with the next season's sports, 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 the Domain includes swings and several climbing structures of a standard design used in numerous Kapiti Coast District reserves. The site is ideal for this use, being slightly elevated and set back from the road behind silver birches but still clearly visible from nearby houses. Its separation from the main sports area also avoids possible conflicts with other groups. Some tree planting to screen the adjacent Memorial Hall and prefab would improve the visual quality and the addition of seating would benefit adult supervisors.
- 3.11.3 As the play equipment has now been in place for some years, 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.

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 screen the Memorial Hall.
- 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

Over the years various sheds and facility buildings were constructed on an ad hoc basis at the Domain. The Council's Parks and Recreation Department has now embarked upon a tidy-up programme for these. Some buildings have already been removed and the old "dug-out" and toilet block will be demolished when the central parking area is developed. The Cycling Association building will also be either relocated or demolished when a suitable alternative location for the Association is determined.

This will leave two buildings in the central area: the rugby clubrooms and the facilities block (with changing and toilet facilities) above which are clubrooms



The facilities block/Aorangi Sports Club rooms:- visual prominence of this building would be reduced with a more sympathetic colour scheme and a planting framework. (The Cycling Association building at left is to be relocated).

shared by the athletics and cricket clubs. Both of these buildings are of a very plain design and pale colour which makes them stand out in their surroundings. A unified colour scheme is needed for both these buildings, which should be of more "recessive" colours. That is, darker colours that will contrast less with vegetation. Associated tree planting is also required to provide a visual framework for these buildings.

The old Girl Guides Association hall located beside the Aorangi Road entrance is due to be replaced subject to a satisfactory design and the construction of a pedestrian connection between it and the new carparking area. The existing site is suitable for this use in that its separation from the main sports-oriented area avoids possible conflict between the Guides and other users. However, the site is comparatively small and is prominent due to its location beside the increasingly important Aorangi Road entrance. Any new building here must be compact and built sufficiently back on the site to allow for street-side screen planting and clear visibility of the Domain entrance. It should be of a recessive colour scheme co-ordinated with that of the buildings in the central area.

The only other building is the Memorial Hall, which is a comparatively large building sitting prominently on its street corner site. As discussed previously, this building functions as a separate entity from the rest of the Domain, but shares an historic, memorial theme with the Memorial Gates and RSA building on the Tutanekai Street frontage. In due course its very plain white colour scheme might be adapted to provide more visual continuity with these historic features, even if only a dark grey roof and trim to complement the masonry of the Gates.

Any future demand for more buildings must be balanced against the objective to preserve the Domain's open space qualities. The need for and placement of new buildings must be considered in terms of:

- facilitating appropriate uses;
- whether the building will attract more use than the Domain 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 will 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 reserves but need to be associated with planting to reduce their visibility on open ground.

There are two special and related features of site furniture at the Domain which are important to the more formal character of the rugby field. These are:

- a) The Memorial Gates and associated masonry and wrought iron boundary fence. This is an historic focal point which must be well maintained and any repairs or additions (such as new memorial inscriptions) must be true to its style and materials. At the west end a standard cyclone netting gate is totally out of character. The need for this gate should be reviewed. If it is needed, it should be replaced with a wrought iron gate hung between masonry posts. If not, the security fence should be realigned to allow street-side planting of a pohutukawa tree to frame the entrance to the Memorial Hall.

- b) The Spectator Terraces

These terraces are retained by concrete retaining walls of a similar masonry character to that of the Memorial Gates so the two features relate to each other. A galvanised pole rail which extends along the front of the terraces from the Memorial Gates is an obtrusive element which poorly matches the wrought iron work at the Gates. The need for this (presumably for crowd control) should also be reviewed and if such a barrier is considered necessary its replacement in a more appropriate material should be considered for the future. Some repair work is needed in places on the retaining walls. At the northern end of the spectator bank low wooden seating is very rickety and should either be removed or replaced, depending upon the size of spectator crowds that need to be accommodated.

3.12.4 Fencing

There are several types of fencing at the Domain, serving different functions.

- Boundary fences adjoining private property are generally obtrusive and should be screened with planting.
- A netting boundary fence runs along the railway boundary for safety and to ensure controlled entry when the rugby field is used as a charge ground. This is comparatively unobtrusive and will be screened by the planting proposed for this edge.
- A security fence runs from Tutanekai Street behind the spectator terracing to control entry when the rugby field is used as a charge ground. This fence is more obtrusive because of its elevated siting. Associated planting, particularly on the Memorial Hall side, would give it a context.
- A post and netting fence along the Aorangi Road frontage is in poor condition and shows signs of vandalism. The fence is too low for crowd control (which is not needed in the No. 2 field anyway) so should be removed. The standard timber vehicle barrier should be used instead to control vehicle entry in association with the proposed planting for this frontage.

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 unified design of constructed features which is complementary to the Domain's character through co-ordinated colour schemes and consistent design styles appropriate to the setting.
- iv The Memorial Gates, wall and spectator terraces shall be protected and maintained to preserve their existing character.
- v Obsolete buildings, fences and site furniture shall be removed.
- vi New buildings shall be subject to planning approval under the Kapiti Coast District Scheme and shall be considered against the objectives of preserving the Domain's open space qualities and providing for recreation. New buildings, structures and site furniture shall be sited to complement the Domain's character while meeting functional requirements.
- vii All new buildings and structures, and alterations to those existing, shall comply with the requirements of the Building Act 1991.
- viii Boundary and security fencing shall be maintained in a state of good repair and its visibility reduced with the use of planting.

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 northern (No. 2) sports ground is used intensively for a wide range of organised sports throughout the year. The No. 1 ground, to the south, is primarily used for winter rugby competitions. Summer use of this ground should also be investigated, particularly if usage levels continue to grow at the north ground.
- 3.13.3 Similarly, shared use of the clubrooms should be encouraged. At present the Paraparaumu Rugby Football Club occupies the southern of the two buildings, while the Aorangi Sports Club operates a joint facility. History of use and financial commitment to the building of both clubrooms must be recognised but should not be seen as the right to exclusive use, provided that compatible multiple use arrangements can be made.
- 3.13.4 Although the Domain is used for organised sport and events, it must be recognised that it 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 sportsground 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 clubrooms shall be encouraged.
- iii Events and activities of a recreational nature or of value to the local community such as fetes, festivals, and sport competitions shall be encouraged, provided that they do not damage the Park, excessively conflict with recreational 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 Domain. Such uses shall be subject to prior written approval of the Reserves Superintendent.
- v The Reserves Superintendent shall administer a booking system for formal use of the sports ground and facilities block and shall give notice of restrictions and cancellations by way of agreed avenues (eg radio announcements).

3.14 Access and Parking

- 3.14.1 Public vehicle access is restricted to the central access road and parking area in the main part of the Domain so that grassed surfaces are protected from damage and conflict between vehicles and recreational use avoided. The parking area is to be developed to accommodate eighty cars once the croquet greens are removed. This arrangement provides ample and central access for people actively using the Domain. Street parking will take overflow parking for competitions and special events which attract large crowds. At such times, marshals may be required to redirect traffic from the central parking area.
- 3.14.2 There is also sealed vehicle access and limited parking around the Memorial Hall. This is primarily to service the building, with most parking occurring on the street. This arrangement is satisfactory at present, but if congestion problems arise the feasibility of angled street parking may have to be investigated as there is certainly no room for more parking around the building itself.
- 3.14.3 There is a formed pedestrian path from the Memorial Gate along the lower spectator terrace to the central carpark. Otherwise pedestrian access is informal. Pedestrian use should be monitored and, if evidence of excessive wear is found, more resilient path surfacing should be developed, or measures investigated to redirect use. When the Girl Guides hall is replaced, the Girl Guides Association will be required to develop a track connecting the new hall with the central parking area to avoid possible conflict between vehicles and pedestrians on the access road.

Policies

- i Public vehicle access shall be restricted to the access road and central parking area off Aorangi Road and the service area around the Memorial Hall.
- ii Appropriate measures, such as judder bars, shall be taken to control vehicle speed on the access road.
- iii At such time as a new Girl Guides Hall is built, a connecting path to the central parking area shall be built subject to approval of the design by the Reserves Superintendent.
- iv Other paths shall be developed where necessary to facilitate pedestrian access and protect the Domain'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 Domain, 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 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 Paraparaumu Domain.

Although prohibition signs are prominently displayed in such areas throughout District 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.

3.15.3 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 kinds of problems. High maintenance standards and rapid repair of damage may, therefore, have some effect in counteracting such behaviour.

It is also recognised that this type of problem occurs less where the local community, (including groups such as schools) is actively involved in park projects and management. Community involvement and consultation is, therefore, another avenue which should be explored.

Policies

- i Unauthorised vehicle access shall not be permitted outside the designated vehicle access and parking areas.
- ii Dogs shall not be permitted in the Domain. 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 Domain'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 Domain's aim and objectives and, specifically, the likely effects upon landscape character, adjacent properties, patterns and levels of use and opportunities to enhance open space qualities.

3.16.2 At this stage, the only significant development envisaged is the construction of the central parking area, replacement of the Girl Guides hall and a planting programme to strengthen the vegetation structure of the Domain. These developments are consistent with existing uses and will enhance the Domain as a recreation area provided:

- there is adequate planting to screen the parking area;
- the Guides hall meets appropriate design standards, and
- the planting is in keeping with the existing character.

Policies

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