



HASTINGS
DISTRICT COUNCIL



FLAXMERE PARK

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO.8

ADOPTED DECEMBER 2011

HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



PREFACE

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT

As an administering body, Hastings District Council has the responsibility of preparing policy for the management of reserves that it controls. 'Reserve Management Plans' are required under the Reserves Act 1977 for reserves within the Hastings District, in order for Council to outline its general intentions for their use, development, maintenance, protection and preservation.

What is a Reserve Management Plan?

A Reserve Management Plan is a document that is typically prepared under the requirements of the Reserves Act, and follows two phases of public consultation. A plan will contain objectives and policies for the management, protection and future development of a reserve, and must:

"...provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation... and the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purpose for which it was classified..." Section 41(3) Reserves Act.

The Plans, once complete provide Council with a clear framework for the day to day management and decision making for all the Council-owned reserves and open spaces within the District for the next 10 years. The process aims to ensure that such management is based on sound principles and that, through consultation, the needs of the public are clearly identified.

What is a District Wide reserve Management Plan?

The Reserves Act envisages that a Reserve Management Plan will be prepared for each reserve within the District. With over 170 reserves within the District, this would be a costly and time consuming process, with many of the management issues common throughout the majority of reserves thereby duplicating information.

There are also a large number of areas of open space and land, referred to in the District as reserve, which do not hold formal Reserve status. This land is generally fee simple awaiting Council completion of the formal process of gazetting as considered appropriate, or kept unclassified by the Council in order to retain future development options. As they are not held under the Reserves Act, management plans are not required to be prepared for them.

However, while not required, Council considers that guidance on the maintenance and future development of all reserves, regardless of their status, is imperative to ensure consistency in reserve planning across the District. Council has therefore rationalised its approach to reserve management planning by preparing this document 'District Wide Reserve Management Plan'.

The intention of this document is to provide objectives and policies which apply to all reserves and open spaces throughout the Hastings District, including those not vested or classified as reserves under the Reserves Act. This will ensure consistency, transparency and enable greater community awareness of Council's intentions on all reserves throughout the District.



What is an Individual Reserve Management Plan?

In addition to the District Wide Reserve Management Plan, Council will prepare individual management plans for specific reserves, according to identified priorities. Certain reserves have unique issues and opportunities that require different use, management and protection philosophies. These individual plans will provide a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting. They will include concept and development plans for each reserve, planting schedules and prioritised action plans for the next 10 years.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THIS PLAN?

The purpose of this Plan is to provide Hastings District Council with a clear framework for the day to day management and decision making for Flaxmere Park for the next 10 years. Council is required to comply with the objectives and policies of this Plan which guide the development, management, protection, operation and public use of it.

Section 94 of the Reserves Act 1977 and the Reserve Bylaws identify restricted activities within Reserves. This Reserve Management Plan gives effect to these bylaws, and will identify those areas that have been specifically set aside for certain activities. While this Plan must be read in conjunction with the District Wide Reserve Management Plan, the objectives and policies of this Plan will take precedence.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THIS PLAN?

Part 1 of the Plan provides an introduction to the park, its historical background, physical description and current use. It also identifies the legislative context within which this Plan has been prepared.

Part 2 of the Plan is set out in 5 policy sections, where the reader will be able to find the relevant Issues, Objectives and Policies associated with each subject. The 5 main policy sections are:

- Recreation and Use
- Furniture and Facilities
- Natural Values
- Social and Cultural Values
- Administration and Management



PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Council is guided by legislation and statutory requirements for the provision and planning of reserves and open spaces. There are also a number of national, regional and local strategies and plans that have relevance to the management and use of reserves within the District.

These Acts, Policies, Strategies and Plans are listed below:

- Reserves Act 1977
- Conservation Act 1987
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Historic Places Act 1993
- Local Government Act 2002
- Sport and Recreation Act 2002

Reserves Act 1977

The purpose of the Reserves Act 1977 is outlined in Section 3 of the Act:

- *Providing for the preservation and management of areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public;*
- *Ensuring, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace, in their natural communities and habitats;*
- *Ensuring, as far as possible, the preservation of representative samples of all classes of natural ecosystems and landscape which gave New Zealand its own recognisable character;*
- *Ensuring, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public to and along the sea coast, its bays and inlets and offshore islands, lakeshores and riverbanks;*
- *Fostering and promoting the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and of the margins of lakes and rivers and the protection of them from unnecessary subdivision and development.*

Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 identifies that it is mandatory for reserves be classified and gazetted based on their primary purpose. The Act provides for seven different reserve classifications, as defined in Sections 17 to 23, these being:

1. Recreation Reserve (Section 17)
2. Historic Reserve (Section 18)
3. Scenic Reserve (Section 19)
4. Nature Reserve (Section 20)
5. Scientific Reserve (Section 21)
6. Government Purpose Reserve (Section 22)
7. Local Purpose Reserve (Section 23)

Reserves may be vested under the Reserves Act with more than one classification, particularly if the values requiring protection vary from one part of the reserve to another. To achieve a dual classification the land area needs to have been surveyed to define the boundary and provide separate land parcels between the lands requiring different classifications.

Reserves Act Classification

The main land holding of Flaxmere Park is vested and classified under the Reserves Act as a Recreation Reserve, with a smaller section classified as Local Purpose Reserve.

This management plan must incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in Section 17 (Recreation Reserves) and Section 23 (Local Purpose Reserves) of the Act.

Section 17 – Recreation Reserves

‘providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.’

Subsections 17(2) a-d of the Act set out the more specific requirements for the management of recreation reserves:

- The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific power conferred on the administering body by sections 53 and 54 of this Act, to any bylaws under this Act applying to the reserve, and to such conditions and restrictions as the administering body considers to be necessary for the protection and general wellbeing of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it;*
- Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological or other scientific features on indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve;*
- Those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve shall be conserved;*
- To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained.*

Section 23 – Local Purpose Reserves

‘...for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes are specified in any classification of the reserve...’

Resource Management Act 1991

The role of the Council under the Resource Management Act 1991 is to promote sustainable management of resources. This affects the way people can behave and controls the effects they can have on other people and the environment.

As an administering body of a reserve, under the Reserves Act, a Council is concerned with acting on behalf of the beneficiaries of the reserve (the public) and must act in the best interests of them.





INTRODUCING FLAXMERE PARK

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Hawkes Bay Regional Council has a statutory responsibility through the Regional Policy Statement to protect regionally significant natural features on land and in the marine area. The HBRC manages the riverside areas of the District primarily for flood control purposes, but increasingly recognising the recreation potential of these areas, many of which adjoin or form part of Council reserves (esplanade).

The following plans and strategies are of importance:

- Pest Management Strategy (2006)
- Regional Resource Management Plan (2006)

LOCAL CONTEXT

Hastings Operative District Plan

The Council is required to prepare a District Plan under the Resource Management Act 1991 to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Section 13.5 identifies all reserves within the District (whether vested or not under the Reserves Act) as a 'District Wide Activity'. This permits certain activities on reserves (such as Places of Assembly and Recreation Activities), subject to specific performance standards. These rules are used to prevent any activities on a reserve from having an adverse impact on adjacent land, the wider community and the environment (for example, flood lights on a sports ground might adversely affect nearby residents). The District Plan also controls the creation of reserves that are required a conditions of resource consent (such as esplanade reserves creation on subdivision).

Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) sets out a planning process for 10 years ahead to deliver clear goals that have been agreed between the Council and the Community, which is formally updated every three years. The LTCCP is set in line with priorities previously identified by the community through the Community Outcomes Process. The Reserves Strategy and Reserve Management Plan provide the basis for determining the projects and timelines that are included in the LTCCP for the public to comment on. These plans identify at a strategic level that reserves also contribute to, or have an impact on community outcomes as identified in the Plan.



Activity Plan/Annual Plan

Associated with the LTCCP, Activity Plans provide business plans for each area of Council, including service levels and asset management information. The Annual Plan is produced each year and sets out the services and activities the Council will deliver, what it will cost and how it will be paid for.

ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES

There are also a number of key adopted documents, plans and strategies that relate to reserves, which this Plan must be consistent with. The key strategies include:

- Reserves Strategy 2006
- Landmarks Development Plan
- Asset and Activity Management Plan
- Coming out to Play Strategy
- Cycling and Walking Strategy

Reserves Strategy

The Council Reserves Strategy was adopted by Council in 2006 as a high level document to identify existing land resources, to identify the need for additional reserve land to meet future community growth and to ultimately link with the District Plan. The Reserves Strategy will also link into the Council's LTCCP through the Reserves and Sportsgrounds Activity Management Plan. The Reserves Strategy:

- Provides an overall framework for Reserve Management Plans to be prepared
- Provides general development standard guidelines for each reserve category
- Analyses current and future demand for reserves, public amenities and open space
- Identifies current deficiencies and future needs for each type of reserve by community
- Identifies reserve contribution requirements for which Council can collect funds through development impact fees and reserve contributions

The Reserves Strategy is currently under review. It is intended that it will be renamed the Reserves and Open Space Strategy, to better reflect the availability of all open spaces to the community, not just those that are in Council ownership.

Landmarks Development Plan

The principal purpose of the Landmarks Development Plan is to promote the District's image, identity and sense of place and to foster civic pride. The visual character of a place contributes to the physical environment and influences the performance of economic activities within that place. It is part of the Landmarks philosophy that the overall distribution and quality of open spaces contributes significantly to visual amenity, image and civic amenity. A well developed open space network integrates town and country. The enhancement of History, Architecture, Landscape and Art is critical to establishing a sense of pride and the Landmarks philosophy and objectives will be taken into account in the management and development of reserves.

Cycle and Walking Strategy

The Cycling and Walking Strategies provide common objectives by encouraging and promoting healthy and alternative travel. Both of these strategies are recognised and supported throughout this Plan.

INTRODUCING FLAXMERE PARK

INTRODUCTION

Flaxmere Park is located with the General Residential Zone of Flaxmere and covers 16.79ha of land.

Flaxmere Park is the largest park in Flaxmere and is situated adjacent to the main access road into the village. It is predominantly flat with a number of established trees, a pond and a long mound towards one end, and a large sportsfield, with changing sheds at the other. The park is located between Flaxmere Avenue, Plymouth Road, Bristol Crescent and Wilson and Henderson Road.

LAND STATUS

Flaxmere Park occupies land that is contained within three certificates of title. These land parcels are shown on the map, with additional more detailed information on each land parcel included in Appendix 1.

NO	LAND PARCEL	CERT. OF TITLE	LAND STATUS	RESERVES ACT CLASS.	AREA
1	Lot 1 DP 435412	HBD1 / 863	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	16.1129ha
2	Lot 2 DP 435412	HBD1 / 863	Fee Simple	Local Purpose Reserve	0.1610ha
3	Lot 3 DP 12950	HBE1 / 1406	Fee Simple – land not held under the Reserves Act 1977		0.5140ha

The main land holding of Flaxmere Park (shown as Area 1) is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and comprises a total area of 16.1129 hectares. In addition, there two smaller land parcels that also make up Flaxmere Park: Area 2 on the southern boundary is classified as Local Purpose Reserve and comprises a total area of 1610m², and Area 3 on the northern boundary. Area 3 comprises a total area of 5140m², and while legally part of Flaxmere Park, is not held under the Reserves Act.



HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL CLASSIFICATION

While part of Flaxmere Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve and Local Purpose Reserve under the Reserves Act, not all reserves within the District are classified. It is for this reason that the Council adopted a system whereby all reserves are categorised according to their size and type of use, and management focus. This allows Council to take a strategic approach in managing these reserves, to provide opportunities based on natural, historic and cultural values, and recreation experiences of that reserve.

10 categories of reserves are used as follows:

1. District Reserve
2. Local Active Reserve
3. Neighbourhood Reserve
4. Rural Community Reserve
5. Open Space Reserve
6. Coastal Reserve
7. Esplanade Reserve
8. Community Building Reserve
9. Other Reserve Land
10. Road Reserve

Flaxmere Park is categorised as a District Reserve. District Reserves are reserves that serve the total District. They are intended to meet the needs of both residents within the District and also visitors to the District. The reserve may enjoy a particular advantageous location or have recreational or amenity assets of a specific value or purpose. They are generally developed and maintained to a high standard with intensive development of facilities to attract and cater for a high level of usage. They will typically provide some or all of the following features: toilets, playscape, amenity planting, paths, lighting, picnic facilities and developed car parking facilities.

The minimum size of District Reserves is dependent on the particular purpose, but they are likely to be of a comparatively large size.



INTRODUCING FLAXMERE PARK

HISTORY

Flaxmere is located within the original parcel of land at Awheraka, on the block called Te Awa o Te Atua, within the wider area of the Heretaunga Block. Application for title was heard at the Native Land Court in Napier on 7 August 1866. Francis Dart Fenton, the Chief Judge, issued the title for Te Awa o Te Atua on 30 October 1866. The area was bound on the north and west by the Ngaruroro River and towards the Kakira River; and towards the south by the original Mangaroa Block. The owners listed on the certificate of title were: Karaitiana Takamoana, Te Harawira Tahuao, Te Meihana Takihi, Ropata Puaho, Paora Tonoi, Werahiko Te Oipu, Hirini Tamoana, Te Otene Toatoa, Maata Kuiatu, and Reihana Ihatahi – all with equal interests. Later the Heretaunga Block was subdivided by Thomas Tanner to create the 12 Apostles. The occupants included the brothers AH and WP Russell, as the original lesses who named their two shares of the Heretaunga Block, Flaxmere.

In 1963, the Hastings City Council proposed to establish an elite subdivision in Flaxmere on 1077 acres between Wilson and Irongate Roads, in response to the generational demands of the post war population boom. It was also proposed that 75 acres would be provided to meet the potential recreation needs of Flaxmere. In February 1963 a report also identified the likely problem of forming a garden suburb on poor soil; and if the new area was to be attractive and a desirable place to live greater provision than usual would need to be made for open areas planted in trees and shrubs throughout the residential area. The Superintendent of Parks recommended that it was desirable to account for population growth and needs with at least 100 acres of "good land capable of holding moisture during the summer and supporting a strong turf and plant growth, be set apart for parks."

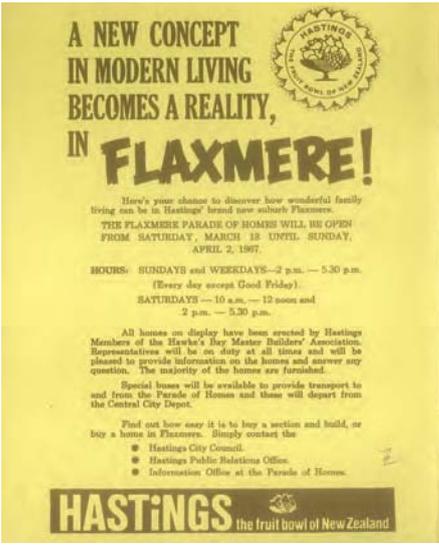
In 1964, 895 acres was set aside for urban development; and in 1965 the Council bought 421 acres for 1310 residential sections. In 1967 a parade of speculation built homes was open to the public in Flaxmere Avenue; 55 sections were also sold in the same year. Subsequently, from 1970 to 1986 schools, a swimming pool, a tavern, library and a community centre were established. And, in 2003 Te Aranga Marae was built as the first nga hau e wha urban marae in the District.

In November 1969, land for Flaxmere Park was surveyed and its subdivision approved by Hastings City Council. In January 1970 that land was vested in the Hastings City Council. It was intended in 1966 to develop the park in two 20 acre sections. The first of these as a community park like Cornwall Park. 18 acres were set aside for field sports; 3.75 acres for a children's playground; and space for a sports pavilion, public conveniences and parking. It was also intended that 8 acres would be left for general landscape work, gardens, paths and consideration for a lake or water feature. There was room for a nursery and service depot, in a park extension area in the second 20 acres which was in orchard leased from the Council by Mr E Palmer. That lease continued until June 1971.

Finally, Flaxmere, is built on alluvial gravel. This was deemed unproductive in the pastoral and orchard economic activities in the 1960s and 1970s. The development of the wine industry since that time has identified the true value of the area; whereby the community is now surrounded by flourishing vineyards that benefit from the mulching effects of the ancient river gravel beds.

Primary Sources:
 Maori Land Court Certificate of Title: 1866: Te Awa o Te Atua
 Hastings City Council HCC609 Flaxmere Park File 17.8 - 1966
 HVV838 Reserves 17.8 (5/13) 1966
 CTA-02-8-05-54

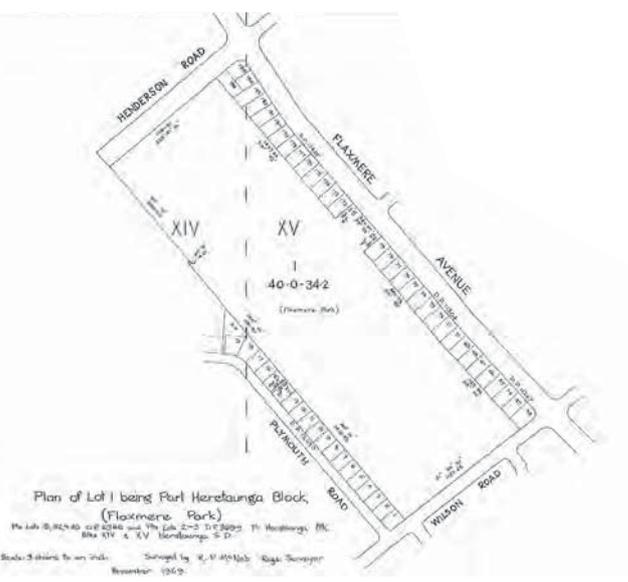
Secondary Source:
 Boyd, M. B. City of Plains – A History of Hastings
 Hastings: Victoria University Press: 1984



Advertising brochure for Flaxmere development, March 1967, (Ref LH8/98/349)



Aerial photograph of Flaxmere, HBCC, 1969. Area for Flaxmere Park highlighted.



Original survey plan for Flaxmere Park. November 1969.

INTRODUCING FLAXMERE PARK

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Flaxmere Park is the largest park in Flaxmere, being 750m long and 240m wide. It is predominately flat with a number of established trees, a pond, and a sportsfield. Very large sections of the park along the northern and southern boundaries are bounded by houses, most with private fences. There are open frontages on Henderson Road, Wilson Road and part of Swansea Road. Over two thirds of the perimeter of the park is inaccessible from public space. Henderson Road and Wilson Road edges are on the short boundaries. This together with the dense plantings and its sheer distance means large areas of the park are out of view.

There are four distinct themed areas within Flaxmere Park:

1. Recreation Area
2. Central Pond Area
3. Sportsfield Area
4. Service Area



Recreation Area

Off Henderson Road, is the recreation sector of Flaxmere Park. This area is richly planted with mature trees, and is the location of the children's playground. The purpose of this area is informal recreation, being popular with families and young children. This area is proposed to be upgraded to become the recreation hub of the community, with relocated skate facility, increased children's play area, basketball court, toilet facilities, and splash pad water feature.

Currently there are no pathways, except for the main path through, nor are there many amenities in the form of seats which invite the community to use this area.



Central Pond Area

The duck pond is a much loved water feature of the park. Over the years it has had shrubs, bushes and trees planted around it which are now overgrown and form entrapment areas. As a natural feature, it has the potential to help lead the revitalisation of the park. It is an 'oasis' in the hot summer climate and has excellent amenity value for people of all ages. Once refreshed, and made safer and more accessible, it has the potential to be a major contributor to transform the park into a valued community asset.

Given its location in the centre of the park and accessibility difficulties, it is proposed to improve visibility and accessibility of this feature by constructing an access road and carparking area to it.



Sportsfield Area

Off Wilson Road is the sportfield area, a much used community asset. It is used for cricket and soccer all year round, with changing facilities and toilets. It is also used by Peterhead School children for sports activities. The playing fields are exempt from the liquor ban which applies to the rest of the park. This area is currently used for community events such as Matariki.



Service Area

This small area of Flaxmere Park is classified Local Purpose Reserve under the Reserves Act to cater for the continued occupation of Council's primary water treatment buildings in Flaxmere.



KEY MANAGEMENT AREAS



FLAXMERE PARK

1. Recreation Area
2. Central Pond Area
3. Sportsfield Area
4. Service Area

INTRODUCING FLAXMERE PARK

RESERVE USE

Flaxmere Park is used for passive recreation by the community as well as formal sports. The Park is also used as an access route by people who are walking either to/from home or for exercise. Other uses include dog exercise.

There are no lease agreements with any other party other than Council itself to lease any of the land or buildings on Flaxmere Park. Season permits are issued by Council annually to sporting codes for soccer and cricket. The park is also used for the annual Matariki event.

RESERVE ISSUES

The park has been long associated with anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. In the latter part of 2008, a number of youth and youth gang incidents occurred in the park, prompting Police to conduct a Problem Profile for it. This stated that the park is seen as a desirable place for youth to fight, tag and drink. This is due to its central location, easy concealment from view and difficulty for police and other agencies to monitor and patrol. As a result, the Park is seen as an unsafe place to be by general members of the public.

It is these issues that impact on the perception of it to the community, and obscure the high regard the community holds it in.

Consultation has identified that the park needs re-embracing by the community, and that it lacks a distinct purpose and strong identity. There is a strong desire that the park becomes a cultural centre of Flaxmere – with performance platforms and covered pavilion areas, to enable the hosting of cultural and community events, such as festivals, concerts and market days. The main problems associated with the park, raised by the community were: no distinct purpose, too dark, unsafe with many entrapment spots and lack of carparking and accessibility issues.

Concerns to be addressed through this management plan, which are identified in the Concept Plan in Appendix 2:

- *Difficulty in accessing the features of the park due to its size and lack of pathways;*
- *Lack of convenient, low risk car parking necessary to support increased use;*
- *Lack of special appearance, entrances are shabby, ill-defined and weakly expressed, poor signage and information; and*
- *Lack of recreation and community facilities to increase usage*

The aims of this management plan are:

- *to increase safety and reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the park;*
- *to improve the amenity of the park;*
- *to improve the recreation and sporting opportunities within the park; and*
- *to improve the accessibility of the park to everyone*



CONCEPT PLAN PROPOSALS

Flaxmere Park is underutilised and underdeveloped and needs innovative measures to help invigorate the space, to draw people back in and improve its character and appearance. Such revitalisation will go a long way to address the safety and security concerns raised by the community.

While a number of smaller actions are identified in Section 6 and Appendix 2, the main proposals include:

Access and Carparking

- *Wide pedestrian promenade through centre of park from Swansea Road to Flaxmere Avenue;*
- *New carparking area off Swansea Road to access the new recreation zone;*
- *New vehicular access off Henderson Road, to activate this entrance, and provide access to a new carpark adjacent to the duckpond (this will have a gate that will be locked at night to restrict vehicle access);*
- *New carparking spaces along Henderson Road to allow for stopping to enjoy the space;*
- *New cycle and walkway paths around the whole perimeter of the park;*

Special Appearance/Amenity

- *Provision of artwork to new entrance spaces to create gateways and a sense of entry;*
- *Signage identifying features in park;*

Recreation and Community Facilities

- *Additional playground features, including splash pad, skate facility and covered basketball court;*
- *Community BBQ area;*
- *Additional seating;*
- *Fitness equipment;*
- *Mobile performance platform;*

Safety

- *Fence around playground;*
- *Additional lighting of features and pathways in park;*





OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AIM & OBJECTIVES

The protection, management and enhancement of the natural and recreation values of Flaxmere Park and its promotion as the recreation and outdoor event centre of the village.



- Increase safety and reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the park.



- Protect and improve the character, amenity and individuality of the park to enable it to become a place that the community is proud of.



- Retain and improve the recreation and sporting opportunities within the park
- Provide a variety of fun and energising spaces.



- Improve the accessibility of the park to all members of the community
- Improve connectivity to Flaxmere town centre.



- Provide facilities to encourage the use of the park as an outdoor event centre for all the community
- Activate the space through events, entertainment and people.





1.0 RECREATION & USE



1.1 USE OF RESERVES

The main landholding of Flaxmere Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act, which means its purpose is to provide an area for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities. A portion is also classified as Local Purpose Reserve, which is occupied by the Council's Water Treatment buildings.

Flaxmere Park is also categorised in the Hastings Reserves Strategy as a District Reserve which means its primary function is as a reserve to serve the total District. It is intended to meet the needs of both residents within the District and also visitors to the District.

Objectives

- 1.1.1 The primary purpose of Flaxmere Park is for public recreation and for the occupation of the Council's Wastewater Treatment buildings.
- 1.1.2 To allow and encourage the public use of Flaxmere Park in accordance with its classified purpose as a Recreation Reserve.

Policies

- 1.1.3 Ensure that the reserve remains as open space for informal recreation by the community.
- 1.1.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.1 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to the Use of Reserves shall also apply where relevant.

1.2 ORGANISED SPORT

The primary purpose of Flaxmere Park is open space for informal recreation and leisure. The southern open grass area currently caters for soccer in the winter and cricket in the summer. There are changing rooms located off Wilson Road which are considered adequate at this time to meet the needs of the existing use of the sportsfields, however there are currently no clubrooms on Flaxmere Park. This may be reassessed in the future if the demand and use changes or increases and therefore a potential site for such clubrooms is identified on the Concept Plan in Appendix 2. It is the expectation that funding for such a facility would rest with the relevant sporting code.

There are currently two senior soccer fields, providing the only facility for senior soccer in Flaxmere and one junior cricket pitch. These sportsfields are however not for the exclusive use of sporting codes, as they are also used for community events such as Matariki.

The maintenance of Flaxmere Park is carried out under a Service Level Agreement with the Parks Service Delivery Unit. There is increasing pressure on the Council as to the delivery of sporting facilities on Flaxmere Park and other sportsgrounds, with users demanding higher quality surfaces, longer hours of play, and extended playing seasons. It is for these reasons that organised sport is restricted to specific seasons to allow regular maintenance to occur so as to ensure that the quality of the ground is acceptable.

Objective

- 1.2.1 To continue to provide high quality sportsfields on Flaxmere Park for both senior and junior sport.

Policy

- 1.2.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Organised Sport shall also apply where relevant.

1.3 DOGS

The parks and reserves within the District provide excellent areas of open space for people to walk their dogs. However, dogs can pose a direct threat to people, animals and birds. Dogs should therefore be under direct and continuous control by being on a lead at all times within parks, unless where it is a designated off lead area. These areas are identified in Part 9 Dog Control Bylaw 2009. The Bylaw includes requirements for the control of dogs in public places, including dogs being on-lead; provides for prohibited and off-lead areas and stipulates requirements to remove dog droppings.

There is no designated off-lead area within Flaxmere Park therefore dogs must be on a lead at all times. This is due to the presence of the children's playground and use of the park by small children.

Objective

- 1.3.1 To allow dogs in Flaxmere Park in accordance with Council policy and bylaws.

Policies

- 1.3.2 Dogs are to be retained on a lead at all times.
- 1.3.3 Prohibit dogs, even if on a lead, from within 25m of the children's playground, and on the sportsfields.
- 1.3.4 Require dogs to be retained and on a lead at all times and under the control of a person physically able to control the dog, unless in an identified off-lead area specified in Part 9 Dog Control Bylaw.
- 1.3.5 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Dogs shall also apply where relevant.

1.4 HORSE RIDING

The use of Flaxmere Park for riding horses is not deemed acceptable, given its use for passive activities by all ages of the community. Horse riding is therefore not permitted on Flaxmere Park.

Objective

- 1.4.1 To prohibit horse riding on Flaxmere Park.

Policy

- 1.4.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.4 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Horse Riding shall also apply where relevant.



1.0 RECREATION & USE

1.5 CYCLING

Cycling (including mountain biking) has many positive health benefits, however it can also create conflicts with other users. In some cases, cycling may adversely affect or impact areas of a reserve. It is important that people are aware of where cycling can be undertaken and that Council provide suitable facilities in those locations. Restrictions on cycling are required in certain areas to manage conflict between users and impacts on reserves.

Cycling is actively encouraged within Flaxmere Park, and it is proposed that a dedicated cycling and walking path be constructed around the perimeter of the park. This will assist the Bikes in Schools programme at local schools. In addition, a wide pedestrian route is proposed through the centre of the park to provide a necessary link to the Model Communities pathways into the centre of Flaxmere.

Objective

- 1.5.1 To provide for and facilitate cycling on Flaxmere Park, while ensuring that it does not create unnecessary conflict with other reserve users.

Policies

- 1.5.2 To actively encourage and facilitate cycling within Flaxmere Park by the provision of paved cycle paths and cycle facilities.
- 1.5.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.5 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Cycling shall also apply where relevant.

1.6 MOTORHOMES & CAMPING

Council has a policy of allowing no overnight camping on reserves, except on licensed campgrounds, on reserves that are designated as campsites for limited overnight stays by motorhomes, or where a Council approved permit allows for the activity.

There are insufficient facilities located on Flaxmere Park to enable the use of the area for overnight camping without having an impact on the reserve itself, and other reserve users. Overnight camping on the park will not be allowed.

Objective

- 1.6.1 To prohibit overnight camping on Flaxmere Park due to the lack of facilities on the reserve and the potential impact of such an activity on the reserve and reserve users.

Policy

- 1.6.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.6 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Motorhomes & Camping shall also apply where relevant.



1.7 RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

There are a number of activities that are not permitted on reserves due to their impact on the amenity of reserves and on the enjoyment of other users. These activities are restricted through Section 94 of the Reserves Act and through Council bylaws. Council bylaws are special laws that apply in the Hastings District only and are enforced by Council officers who have been appointed specifically for that purpose. Breaches of bylaws can result in court imposed fines, confiscation of equipment or court orders for various purposes. Relevant bylaws include:

- Part 9 (Dog Control Bylaw)
- Part 12 (Mobile Shops and Traders Bylaw)
- Part 14 (Public Places Bylaw)
- Part 15 (Recreation and Cultural Facilities Bylaw)
- Part 24 (Public Places Liquor Control Bylaw)

In addition to those activities restricted under the Reserves Act and Council bylaws, specific activities are also restricted under this management plan due to their potential impact on the unique characteristics of the reserve.

Part of Flaxmere Park is currently located within a Liquor Ban area. This area includes all of the Park, except for that sportsfield area to the south of the park.

Objective

- 1.7.1 To prevent activities from occurring that have an adverse impact on the natural environment and amenity values of Flaxmere Park or significantly detract from the enjoyment of other reserve users.

Policies

- 1.7.2 In addition to those activities that are restricted under the Reserves Act and Council Bylaws the following activities are also prohibited on the reserve:
- a. Horse riding in Flaxmere Park;
 - b. Overnight camping
 - c. Dogs off-lead
- 1.7.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 1.7 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Restricted Activities shall also apply where relevant.



2.0 FURNITURE AND FACILITIES



2.1 DEVELOPMENT

Any further development on Flaxmere Park to provide enhanced facilities to increase the enjoyment of it by the community, must be in keeping with the purpose of the reserve. The Hastings District Council is a signatory to the Urban Design Protocol. Well designed urban spaces encourage more physical activity and facilitate social cohesion. Any development on Flaxmere Park will take into account the principles of urban design and the goals and objectives of the Sustainable Urban Design Framework to ensure that the reserve provides safe, sustainable areas of open space and recreation for the community.

Objectives

- 2.1.1 To ensure that any reserve development meets the needs of approved use and users without significant adverse effects on other users, the reserve, or neighbours.
- 2.1.2 To ensure that new development on Flaxmere Park respects and protects key landscape features, built heritage, promotes linkages between open spaces, improves accessibility and promotes good urban design principles.
- 2.1.3 Ensure that any new buildings on Flaxmere Park are designed to be more environmentally sustainable in terms of their function, design, construction and long term maintenance.

Policies

- 2.1.4 Ensure that any future development at Flaxmere Park is consistent with the Concept Plan identified in Appendix 2.
- 2.1.5 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.1 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Development shall also apply where relevant.



2.2 BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Requests for new buildings or structures on Flaxmere Park will be supported by Council where there is a justified demand and need, and where the buildings or structures do not conflict with the provision of other features, and are consistent with the purpose of the reserve for amenity, recreation or community use.

Existing structures on Flaxmere Park include the changing sheds, one toilet block and storage sheds used by the Parks Service Delivery Unit. It is proposed that the existing toilet block, located off Flaxmere Avenue, be retained and upgraded (Section 2.7), and that the storage sheds be relocated to another Park. All existing and new buildings will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure that they remain in good condition.

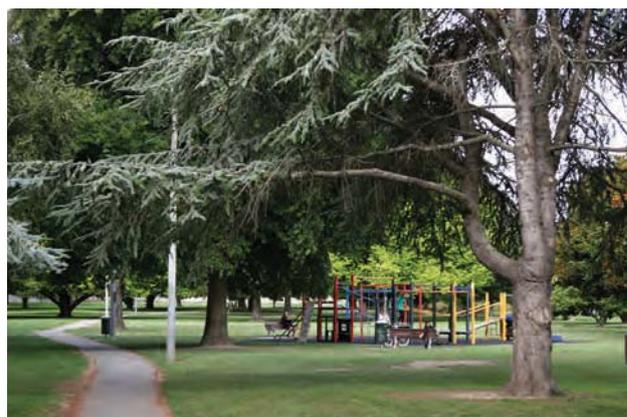
Events can actively develop an identity for a place while reaching out publicly to the whole community. Festivals, markets, concerts all promote a sense of place. It is therefore proposed to provide a facility where events can be held and the community can gather in the form of a covered pavilion over the basketball court and a mobile performance platform.

Objective

- 2.2.1 To ensure that any reserve development meets the needs of approved use and users without significant adverse effects on other users, the reserve, or neighbours.

Policies

- 2.2.2 Ensure that all new and existing buildings have ongoing maintenance and care on an annual basis.
- 2.2.3 To provide a covered pavilion over the basketball court and a mobile performance platform, to cater for community events.
- 2.2.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Buildings and Structures shall also apply where relevant.





2.0 FURNITURE & FACILITIES

2.3 FENCES & WALLS

Fences or bollards will be used to restrict vehicle access onto and around Flaxmere Park and to enclose playgrounds and service areas. The purpose of such barriers is to protect assets, and to prevent use of the facilities after dark. In all cases, fences will be of transparent materials to ensure ongoing surveillance and protection of the openness and amenity of the park features.

Large sections of Flaxmere Park share boundaries with residential properties, who for security reasons have erected high close boarded fences. While Council recognises that people have the right to develop their property and erect fences to their own preference, from an amenity and surveillance perspective, it would be desirable that such fences were open. Council will therefore work with neighbouring property owners to encourage the use of appropriate materials or planting to minimise the visual impact of boundary fences. Wherever possible, Council will encourage low and permeable fences on reserve boundaries.

Objective

- 2.3.1 To erect fences, barriers or walls where required to ensure that Flaxmere Park can be used safely.

Policies

- 2.3.2 Erect a safety fence around the playground area and service area, and ensure that all access points are locked at night to prevent vehicle access.
- 2.3.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Fences & Walls shall also apply where relevant.

2.4 LIGHTING

Council is often requested by reserve users to provide carpark and accessway lighting. Lighting is also requested for facilities and structures, to improve security from vandalism, and to provide better surveillance. The lighting of buildings or trees can also enhance their visual appeal at night. Lighting is however mostly requested for safety reasons. Lighting only be provided on reserves where there is clear public benefit. It will only be provided at key access routes through parks, sports fields, civic spaces or around public buildings.

Lighting is currently provided by 2 floodlights adjacent to the sportsfields off Wilson Road and 13 lightpoles throughout the Park. Additional lighting will be provided in all areas where pedestrians are encouraged to go (along cycle path, playground and skate facility).

Objectives

- 2.4.1 To provide lighting only where the costs of developing, maintaining and replacing this lighting is met by the beneficiaries.
- 2.4.2 To provide lighting to improve safety, and to facilitate night time use of the Park where deemed necessary.

Policy

- 2.4.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.4 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Lighting shall also apply where relevant.

2.5 PLAYGROUNDS

Hastings District Council's Play Strategy 'Hastings Coming Out to Play', looks at the Council's role in providing opportunities for play in the Hastings District outdoor environment over the next 10 years.

The Play Strategy identifies 3 categories of playscapes: Premier, Key Urban and Neighbourhood. Flaxmere Park is identified as a Key Urban Playscape. Key Urban Playscapes cater to a range of users and will have a minimum of 5 play components. These parks will serve a residential area of approximately 10,000 people and provide large-scale areas for both active and passive recreation as well as acting as gathering points for social interaction. People will want to spend more time per visit in these open spaces and therefore appropriate shaded areas, seating, picnic and should be provided.

The playground at Flaxmere Park is located within the recreation area, accessed off Swansea Road. This is a new playground that was developed in 2006, following a safety study and community consultation to identify the best location for it. There are currently 7 pieces of play equipment, and it is recommended that additional play features be added to this playground to suit younger children, and that the whole asset be fenced. The low transparent fence will ensure children's safety, as well as discouraging inappropriate use.

Given the success of the water feature at Cornwall Park, it is proposed to also construct one in the vicinity of the children's playground.

Objective

- 2.5.1 To ensure that the play equipment in Flaxmere Park meets the needs of reserve users.

Policies

- 2.5.2 Create an upgraded recreation area comprising:
 - a. Additional playground features;
 - b. Safety fencing around playground;
 - c. Splash Pad water feature
- 2.5.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.5 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Playgrounds shall also apply where relevant.



2.0 FURNITURE & FACILITIES

2.6 INFORMAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The reserves within the District are used for a significant amount of informal sporting activities. These activities include basketball, skating, skateboarding and BMX biking. Council needs to take these activities into account in the forward planning of reserves, to ensure that a dequate provision is made for these activities, while taking into account the potential impact of these activities on the reserves, reserve users and adjoining neighbours.

The main skate facility in Flaxmere is currently located within the town centre. However, as part of the planned upgrade of this area, it is proposed to relocate this facility to Flaxmere Park to a highly visible site on the corner of Henderson Road and Swansea Avenue. The design of the new facility will incorporate the needs and aspirations of the local community. The basketball court will also be relocated to this area.

Objective

- 2.6.1 To provide a range of sports facilities on appropriate reserve that allows the community to participate in a variety of sporting activities.

Policies

- 2.6.2 Design and construct a new skate facility and basketball court in Flaxmere Park in consultation with the local community to be operational once the existing facility ceases to be available.
- 2.6.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.6 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Informal Sporting Facilities shall also apply where relevant.



2.7 TOILETS & CHANGING FACILITIES

Council often receives requests from the community to provide additional toilet facilities and changing rooms on reserves. These requests will be supported only where the use is expected to be high and sustained, and where there are no other facilities that provide that function. Placement of toilets will consider safety, ease of access (especially for people with disabilities) and proximity to an activity.

There is one toilet block located within Flaxmere Park off Flaxmere Avenue. The toilet block is in poor condition, and its location with poor surveillance means it is often a target for vandalism. It is identified in the 2006 Sanitary Services Review that this toilet block be demolished, and a new toilet block constructed in the vicinity of the children's playground. However, given the size of the park, there is a need for two facilities. Accordingly the existing toilet block will be retained and upgraded to meet hygiene and safety standards, until such a time that additional facilities may be provided in the existing changing sheds. Additional activity in the park should assist in increasing the security of the existing toilet block, especially with the new cycle and walking tracks in this location.

Objective

- 2.7.1 To ensure that the toilet facilities at Flaxmere Park are safe and healthy, are adequate for the purpose and use, accessible to the whole community, comply with appropriate legislation and are efficient and cost effective with optimised usage.

Policies

- 2.7.2 Retain and upgrade the existing toilet block located off Flaxmere Avenue and construct a new facility in the vicinity of the children's playground.
- 2.7.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.7 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Toilets & Changing Facilities shall also apply where relevant.
- 2.7.4 To provide a new toilet block in the vicinity of the children's playground.



2.0 FURNITURE & FACILITIES

2.8 SIGNS

Council has prepared Reserve Sign Guidelines Policy to ensure consistency and to improve amenity of signage in parks. Unless specifically stated in a Reserve Management Plan, all signs shall be in accordance with the policies included within this Plan.

Signs required for advertisement purposes for occupants of reserves, shall be kept to a minimum, and be subject to the appropriate provisions of both Bylaw and District Plan rules.

Remote advertising is generally not acceptable, however Council will consider applications on a case by case basis. Advertising without Council consent will be classified as an encroachment (See Section 5.10).

Council has adopted a standard design for all reserve names signs within the District for consistency.

Flaxmere Park has two reserve name signs in the new format on its Flaxmere Avenue and Wilson Road entrances. Given the prominence and use of Flaxmere Park, it is also deemed appropriate to install large information boards, identifying the layout of facilities on the reserve, at both new entrances off Swansea Road and Henderson Road.

Signs within Flaxmere Park will be kept to an absolute minimum.

Objectives

- 2.8.1 To ensure consistent sign information, styles and types on Flaxmere Park.
- 2.8.2 To minimise visual clutter while maximising necessary and useful information to reserve users.
- 2.8.3 To provide for new signs on Flaxmere Park only where required and appropriate.

Policies

- 2.8.4 Allow signage that is related to the reserve or the use of Flaxmere Park only.
- 2.8.5 Install an information board in the vicinity of the new entranceways off Henderson Road and Swansea Avenue.
- 2.8.6 Prohibit the use of the Park for the remote advertising of events that are not being held on the Park, without consent of Council.
- 2.8.7 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.8 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Signs shall also apply where relevant.



2.9 RESERVE FURNITURE

Reserve furniture provides a range of opportunities and settings for users of reserves, and enhances experience by providing facilities for rest, picnicking and services (rubbish bins). Reserve furniture may include tables and seating, barbeques, rubbish bins and drinking fountains. Council has recently adopted a standard bin and seat design that will give consistency in reserve furniture being installed and improve amenity. All new and replacement furniture will be in this new design, that incorporates stainless steel for its endurance and robustness.

It is proposed that additional seating and picnic tables will be installed given the intended higher use of this park in the future with increased recreational facilities as well as drinking fountains in the location of cycling and walking facilities.

Due to the prominence and high use of this park by families, it is proposed to install BBQs. These will be coin operated and available for use by the whole community.

Objectives

- 2.9.1 To provide new and replacement reserve furniture only where there is an identified need to facilitate the public use and enjoyment of the reserve.
- 2.9.2 To ensure that all new and replacement furniture is of the approved standard design, except where an alternative has been specifically agreed by the community and/or Council.

Policies

- 2.9.3 Provide reserve furniture within Flaxmere Park where there is an identified need and in accordance with the Concept Plan in Appendix 2.
- 2.9.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.9 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Reserve Furniture shall also apply where relevant.



2.0 FURNITURE & FACILITIES

2.10 VEHICLE PARKING

Recreational uses within reserves generate demand for car parking spaces. Car parks increase the capacity of a park by making it more accessible for those that live further away but in doing so can reduce the amenity and green space of a park.

There is currently only vehicular access into the Park off Wilson Road, where there is an associated carparking area in front of the changing rooms. All other vehicle parking for reserve users is on the road, mainly Flaxmere Avenue and Henderson Road. Given the size of the park, this lack of dedicated parking areas restricts reserve use. It is proposed to provide an additional carparking area off Swansea Road to access the recreation area and children's playground. It is also proposed to activate the main frontage to Henderson Road, by constructing carparks along this boundary, as well as a new carparking area up a new access road. This will provide carparking to those people wishing to visit the duck pond or splash pad. In addition, new carparking spaces are proposed to be added off Wilson Road for sporting events.

Objective

- 2.10.1 To provide carparking areas for to enable reserve visitors to conveniently access and use the park.

Policies

- 2.10.2 To provide additional carparking areas on Flaxmere Park to facilitate its use by reserve users, in the vicinity of the children's playground and duck pond.
- 2.10.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.10 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Vehicle Parking shall also apply where relevant.

2.11 ACCESS

Access to and through features of interest is an important consideration in the management of Flaxmere Park. Pedestrian access and circulation within a reserve needs to be appropriate and safe. It also needs to allow access to the variety of facilities that are located within reserves. Many people have restricted mobility (such as wheelchairs and prams) that makes it difficult to gain access to and through the reserves of the District. Council will ensure there are facilities within the Park to cater for people with restricted mobility where permitted by cost.

It is proposed to create a new main entrance to the Park off Henderson Road leading up to a carparking area. This will activate this edge and make the park more accessible. Vehicular access will be restricted at night by the use of an artistic entrance gate, that can be locked at night.

There is a narrow alleyway between the park and Plymouth Road, which is part of a strong pedestrian link to the park. It is a 30m long and 2.2m wide, with high fences on both sides. It is considered a safety hazard, however little can be done to improve this situation in the short term. It is however raised as an issue to be addressed if an opportunity to widen or create a new access is presented.

Objective

- 2.11.1 To provide access to people of all ages and abilities to and through Flaxmere Park.

Policies

- 2.11.2 Create a new main entrance to Flaxmere Park off Henderson Road.
- 2.11.3 Restrict vehicular access to Flaxmere Park at night by locking all access roads, unless related to an organised event approved by Council.
- 2.11.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.11 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Access shall also apply where relevant.

2.12 WALKWAYS & CYCLEWAYS

The Council Walking and Cycling Strategies encourage healthy and alternative travel, and are supported by Council's wider Play Strategy.

Walkways and cycleways provide access through reserves and can provide alternatives to using the road network. Through the development of reserves Council will seek to provide a network of walkways and cycleways to and through reserves, and where possible, to extend the existing network.

There is currently only a single pathway through the centre of Flaxmere Park, linking the playground through to the duck pond and out to Flaxmere Avenue. It is proposed to upgrade and widen this main pathway through the centre for use as a formal paved promenade. This will formalise and activate this space. It is also proposed to construct a formal walking and cycle path around the perimeter of the park, to provide links to the existing network and provide additional surveillance into existing unused areas of the park. It is also proposed to install fixed circuit fitness equipment along the route.

Objectives

- 2.12.1 To provide and promote a cycle and walkway network through and around Flaxmere Park consistent with Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy.
- 2.12.2 To construct and maintain pathways within Flaxmere Park consistent with the Track Hierarchy and to meet New Zealand Standards.

Policies

- 2.12.3 Develop safe and accessible cycle and walking tracks through and around Flaxmere Park.
- 2.12.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 2.12 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Walkways & Cycleways shall also apply where relevant.





3.0 NATURAL VALUES



3.1 TREES & GARDENS

The reserves within the District contain a wide range and large number of trees which form an important part of the environment, contributing to their recreation, landscape, heritage and amenity value. Council maintains all the trees and shrubs within reserves, and undertakes annual surveys to identify those trees that require removal, replacement or maintenance and any new plantings that are required.

All trees within reserves are protected either under the rules of the District Plan, or under the internal Tree Removal Policy, that ensures that no tree is removed unless it is dead, dying or potentially hazardous. There are some exceptions to this policy that give further consideration if the tree produces offensive characteristics, invades essential services or is a particularly poor specimen. Thought and care needs to be given to future planting on reserves, with regard to species selection and their placement. Wherever possible, Council will ensure the use of locally sourced plants that naturally occur in the District, which are well adapted to local conditions.

Flaxmere Park is largely green open space, with rich plantings of mature and beautiful trees. In recent years several trees have had their lower branches removed to improve sightlines through the park. However the northern sector of the Park in particular is heavily planted and dense, making surveillance difficult. The Concept Plan identifies those trees, shrubs and bushes that require further assessment with regard to their impact on the safety of the park, or the need for their removal or relocation to provide room for new proposed facilities. No trees will be removed without full assessment in accordance with the Tree Removal Policy, to ensure that the natural landscape character and amenity of the park is retained.

Objective

- 3.1.1 To provide for healthy gardens environments which provide attractive settings for the users of the reserve.

Policies

- 3.1.2 Ensure that any planting, replacement or removal of any trees or shrubs within Flaxmere Park is consistent with the aims of the Concept Plan identified in Appendix 2.
- 3.1.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.1 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Trees & Gardens shall also apply where relevant.



3.2 LANDSCAPE

A key focus of reserves is on the visual and natural qualities of the area. There are spectacular panoramic views from some reserves that enhance the experience and enjoyment of the visitor. Development, natural re-growth and re-vegetation programmes can diminish and obliterate these views, and need to be sensitively managed to retain their amenity.

The landscape features found within Flaxmere Park are that of a community reserve located within the centre of the village. It consists of a large grassed area of open space, densely planted with trees.

Objectives

- 3.2.1 To protect significant landmarks, landscapes and vistas within Flaxmere Park.
- 3.2.2 To ensure that any building development, earthworks or plantations on reserves does not visually compromise any outstanding natural landscapes.

Policy

- 3.2.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Landscape shall also apply where relevant.

3.3 WATER

The HBRC is primarily responsible for the management of our water resources, including the coast, streams, lakes and wetlands. However the Council, under the RMA is required to recognise and provide for the preservation of the natural character of waterbodies and their margins and to promote public access to and along the waterbodies in the District.

The District contains a number of major river systems and lakes, including the Mohaka, Tutaekuri, Ngaruroro and TukiTuki Rivers, Lake Tutira and Lake Poukawa as well as numerous smaller rivers, lakes and streams such as Clive and Esk. Many of these waterways run through our reserves where Council has a responsibility to preserve and enhance their margins, water quality and runoff into them.

There are no natural watercourses running through Flaxmere Park. There is however a large pond in the centre of the park that was developed by Council in the early 1980's. This feature has the potential to lead the revitalisation of the park. There is currently limited access to this feature and therefore it is not widely used or appreciated by the community. Better access provision to the pond is proposed, along with work to clean it and make more of a feature out of it including improved planting, provision of all-weather surfaces and paths, increased shade and protected seating and suitable lighting.

Objective

- 3.3.1 To enhance the pond within Flaxmere Park and improve accessibility to it for reserve users.

Policy

- 3.3.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Landscape shall also apply where relevant.



3.0 NATURAL VALUES

3.4 BIODIVERSITY

The reserves of the District contain a variety of ecosystems and natural habitats that are unique to the area. The enhancement of these areas is required to maintain a balance between public use and protection. Human development and settlement has had a major impact on our native species. Where possible public use should have minimal impact on any natural areas within these reserves.

While Flaxmere Park is not identified by the Department of Conservation as a Protected Natural Area or a Recommended Area for Protection it does contain a number of important flora and fauna types which aid in the continued biodiversity of the area.

Objectives

- 3.4.1 To protect desirable native flora and fauna on Flaxmere Park.
- 3.4.2 To preserve and regenerate representative samples of natural ecosystems which are characteristic of the area.

Policy

- 3.4.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.4 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Biodiversity shall also apply where relevant.

3.5 PLANT & ANIMAL PESTS

There are many plant and animal pests within the District that if left uncontrolled, can have an impact on the viability and survival of indigenous plants or animals, or the sustainability of natural and developed ecosystems, ecological processes and biological diversity. The Council as a land manager is required to meet its obligations under the Hawkes Bay Regional Council Regional Pest Strategy 2006.

Being located within the urban environment, the impact of plant and animal pests on native flora and fauna is less of an issue than those reserves surrounded by rural landuses where goat and possums represent a large threat. Council will therefore work in conjunction with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and control any pests species when they do represent a threat to the native flora and fauna of the reserve.

Objectives

- 3.5.1 To manage and control animals, pests and plants identified in the Hawkes Bay Regional Council Plant Pest Management Strategy.
- 3.5.2 To control other animal, plants or pests where reserve values are threatened and as prioritised.

Policy

- 3.5.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.5 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Plant & Animal Pests shall also apply where relevant.

3.6 NATURAL HAZARDS

In order to manage the use, protection and development of reserves within the District, Council needs to be aware of natural hazards, and their potential impact on the use and safety of these areas of public open space. Flooding, coastal inundation and erosion/land instability are the main natural hazards that can occur in areas of the Hawkes Bay region that are likely to impact on reserves. While this plan does not specifically address these issues, the emphasis is on avoidance rather than protection.

Flaxmere Park is not in any Natural Hazard Zone identified in the Operative Hastings District Plan. The area, like the majority of the Heretaunga Plains, is however included within a Liquefaction Susceptibility Area.

Objectives

- 3.6.1 To assess the risks of natural hazards on Council facilities and visitors to Flaxmere Park.
- 3.6.2 To identify and minimise the effects of natural hazards on Flaxmere Park.

Policies

- 3.6.3 Require the siting of facilities and planting on reserves to have regard to avoiding natural hazard threats, including flooding and erosion.
- 3.6.4 Ensure that the development or use of any reserve does not exacerbate the adverse effects of natural hazards.
- 3.6.5 The Objectives and Policies of Section 3.6 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Natural Hazards shall also apply where relevant.



4.0 SOCIAL & CULTURAL VALUES



4.1 CULTURAL & HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

A number of parks and reserves within the District contain sites of heritage significance, such as buildings, landscapes, structures, archaeological sites and trees. Many of these are listed in the Historic Places Trust Register, and include registered historic places, historic areas, registered Waahi Tapu sites and recorded archaeological sites. Trees of outstanding heritage values are also identified under the Notable Trees Registration Scheme. Many of these heritage resources have protection under the Historic Places Act, or the District Plan.

There are no buildings, structures or trees that have any registered heritage significance, with either Council or the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

However the park and its surrounds hold high cultural significance to the community. In this respect, the importance of providing strong links and tying the design of the Park with the paharakeke vision has been signalled by the community throughout the consultation. The Plan can achieve this by embracing the paharakeke theme throughout – not just with plantings, but also with water features, artwork, entranceways and other theming based on the flax image. A strong identity that communicates and ties the history, the journey, the people and the values to the park will ensure its success as a valued and respected public open space.

Objective

- 4.1.1 To ensure that the cultural significance of the Park is protected, maintained and enhanced.

Policies

- 4.1.2 Recognise and incorporate the paharakeke vision for Flaxmere within the Park where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community.
- 4.1.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 4.1 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Cultural and Heritage Significance shall apply where relevant.



4.2 TANGATA WHENUA

Many activities on reserves within the District, as well as their features, are particularly important to local hapu. These include not only the protection of waahi tapu and sites of historical significance, but also the value of reserves as places for gathering food, rongoa and materials for crafts such as weaving and carving. As such, ecosystem management and the protection and restoration of stream banks and flora and fauna within the reserves to a level where they can be self sustaining is an important consideration.

Council will consult the relevant hapu in the future development and management of Flaxmere Park.

Objective

- 4.2.1 To consult relevant hapu in the future development and management of Flaxmere Park.

Policy

- 4.2.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 4.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Tangata Whenua shall also apply where relevant.

4.3 ART

The Landmarks philosophy has been adopted by the Council to promote civic pride through the enhancement of the natural and built environment. Part of this philosophy is to use art, especially within the urban environment, to develop an element of style within Hastings, and in turn, civic pride. Art is a great mechanism to attract community response and develop civic pride by creating an environment of diversity, vibrancy and cultural sophistication. It is generally associated with permanent installations like painting, sculpture or carving. Art within reserves also increases interest and enjoyment of the environment and assists in the reduction of graffiti, by creating a sense of ownership.

Council will encourage and facilitate the use of local art to assist with the creation of special gateways into the Park, to announce arrival, and foster a sense of community and civic pride.

Objective

- 4.3.1 To provide opportunities for the community to contribute to creating unique features within reserves such as art works, carvings, local history markers or information boards.

Policies

- 4.3.2 Facilitate the use of local art to assist with the creation of special gateways into the Park, including at the new entranceway off Henderson Road.
- 4.3.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 4.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Art shall apply where relevant.



4.0 SOCIAL & CULTURAL VALUES

4.4 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The management of reserves needs to be responsive to the community, with respect to identity and sense of place in order to account for:

- A sense of community ownership
- Appreciation of reserves and fostering civic pride
- The development and management of reserves to acknowledge social diversity within the District

Council will actively work with those community groups who use Flaxmere Park, to ensure that the reserve caters for the needs and values of the whole community. Council will encourage representatives of the community to take an active part in supporting the concept plan, to embed and sustain community identity, interest and ownership in the park.

Objective

- 4.4.1 To ensure that the reserves cater for the needs and values of the community in general.

Policy

- 4.4.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 4.4 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Community Partnerships shall apply where relevant.



4.5 COMMEMORATIVE FEATURES

Members of the public frequently make requests to place features on reserves. Whilst such commemorations can assist in developing community values and mark important historic events, the location and number of such features needs to be managed.

Commemorative features can also add cost to the ongoing maintenance of reserves, and can cause difficulties when the features are damaged, vandalised or require significant maintenance. Difficulties can also arise where an individual or group who made a gift seeks to influence the management of the wider reserve. Council needs to be in a position to control the nature, number and location of such features.

Objective

- 4.5.1 To consider any request for bequeathed land, gifts and commemorative features to ensure that they are managed in a sustainable manner and are beneficial to the reserve and the community.

Policy

- 4.5.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 4.5 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Commemorative Features shall apply where relevant.



5.0 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT



5.1 MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

The management and operation of Flaxmere Park is undertaken collectively between the Strategic Asset Management staff and the Parks Service Delivery Unit staff. Most routine maintenance is carried out under a Parks and Sportsgrounds Service Level Agreement with the internal Parks Service Delivery Unit. Non-routine maintenance is carried out by both the Parks Service Delivery Unit and external contractors on a job-by-job basis. The management of the reserves must take into account the objectives and policies of the management plans.

The primary mechanism by which the provisions of this management plan will be implemented is through the Hastings District Council LTCCP and more specifically the Asset Management Plan. This specifies the works and actions which will be undertaken in any financial year.

Objectives

- 5.1.1 To provide and maintain the reserves of the District to a standard that gives all members of the community access to an environment to meet their recreational needs.
- 5.1.2 To implement the provisions and actions of Reserve Management Plans in a structured and integrated manner through the Asset Management Plan and LTCCP.

Policies

- 5.1.3 The Hastings District Council is primarily responsible for the maintenance and management of Flaxmere Park.
- 5.1.4 Flaxmere Park will be maintained and managed to the levels of service identified in the Parks and Sportsground Service Level Agreement.
- 5.1.5 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.1 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Management and Maintenance shall apply where relevant.

5.2 SUSTAINABILITY

Council will also endeavour to incorporate sustainable practices into the development and management of Flaxmere Park. The key management objective for this reserve is about maintenance and enhancement of the existing area and protection of natural values. To this end, sustainability is already occurring, with the provision of a large park within the District for future generations to enjoy.

Objective

- 5.2.1 To incorporate sustainable practices into the provision, management and development Flaxmere Park wherever practicable.

Policy

- 5.1.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.2 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Sustainability shall apply where relevant.



5.3 CONCESSIONS: LEASES, LICENCES & PERMITS

Any person, organisation or company wishing to occupy any part of a reserve requires a concession agreement between themselves and the Council. Council's powers to grant concessions over reserves vary depending on the status of the reserve and rights transferred by the Crown (if a reserve under the Reserves Act). In undertaking its role in providing recreational opportunities to the community, Council provides leases, licences and permits of land and/or buildings to a wide range of groups undertaking a variety of activities on the reserve.

All leases, licences and permits require an application to Council. Applications for concessions on reserve land held under the Reserves Act must meet the statutory requirements defined in the Act, as well as the objectives and policies of this Plan. Leases will be issued where a person or organisation requires the exclusive long-term use of a building or land on the Park, while a Licence will be issued for the non-exclusive use of a building or land on the Park. Both leases and licences can be issued for a maximum of 18 years. Permits will be issued for activities or events to occur on the Park where the use is non-exclusive and temporary. Local community and Commercial Permits will be issued for a maximum of 3 consecutive days. Further information on the types of concessions is provided in Section 5.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan.

Leases

Council currently has no lease agreements with another party with regard to the use of land or buildings on Flaxmere Park.

Season Permits

Flaxmere Park is the senior soccer ground for Flaxmere and season permits will only be issued to the Hibernian Soccer Club for the 20 week winter soccer season. Flaxmere Park is also used for junior cricket, and a season permit will be issued to HB Junior Cricket for the 20 week summer season. Season permits may also be issued to any other sport that is deemed an acceptable and compatible use of the fields.

Local Community/Commercial Permits

Events can actively develop an identity for a place while reaching out publicly to the whole community. Festivals, markets and concerts all promote a sense of place. Flaxmere Park is currently not extensively used for community events. Annual events such as Matariki (June) and HB Multi Sports (October) are however held in the Park. Such community events have little impact on the reserve or reserve users, and promote the park and its features to the community. Any organisation or individual wishing to use Flaxmere Park for a commercial activity such as a mobile shop or fair (not associated with a season permit) will require the express permission of Council. Community events on the park will however be encouraged, provided all relevant Council regulations are met.

Objectives

- 5.3.1 To allow for the occupation of Flaxmere Park for approved uses and facilities by the granting of a lease, licence or permit.
- 5.3.2 To control the lease agreements to ensure the most effective use of Flaxmere Park for the enjoyment of the whole community.
- 5.3.3 To allow the use of Flaxmere Park for special activities where compatible with its primary purpose.



5.0 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Policies

- 5.3.4 Licences will not be issued for the grazing of Flaxmere Park.
- 5.3.5 Season permits will be issued to sporting clubs to occupy Flaxmere Park for a maximum period of 20 weeks each summer and winter season.
- 5.3.6 The summer season shall commence on the first weekend of October for a period of 20 weeks. The winter season shall commence on the first weekend of April for a period of 20 weeks. No permits shall be issued for any period outside of the specific seasons with the exception of the cricket season, where the 20 week summer season will exclude 3 weeks over Christmas, and will end on the third weekend of March.
- 5.3.6 Permits may be issued to sporting clubs who wish to occupy Flaxmere Park for training purposes or one-off tournaments, outside of the specified season periods, at the discretion of Council and determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the condition and maintenance programme of Flaxmere Park.
- 5.3.7 Council will permit a maximum of 5 mobile shops selling food and/or beverages to locate on Flaxmere Park for each 20 week season (See Policy 5.3.5) by the issue of a season permit.
- 5.3.8 Permits may be issued for commercial or local community activities to occur on Flaxmere Park where the use is non-exclusive and temporary and for a maximum period of 3 consecutive days.
- 5.3.9 Commercial Permits may be issued for a maximum of 6 one-off commercial activities or events (and ancillary mobile shops) on Flaxmere Park per calendar year where there will be no impact on the reserve use or users and the event will not conflict with any other approved use of the reserve.
- 5.3.10 Policy 5.3.9 will not apply to car boot sales on Flaxmere Park which will require a formal resolution of Council prior to the issuing of a permit.
- 5.3.11 Local Community Permits may be issued for a maximum of 12 one-off local community activities or events (and ancillary mobile shops) on Flaxmere Park per calendar year, where there will be no impact on the reserve use or users and will not conflict with any other approved use of the reserve.
- 5.3.12 A permit for additional Commercial or Local Community Permits to occur on Flaxmere Park will be at the discretion of the relevant Asset Manager.
- 5.3.13 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan shall also apply where relevant.



5.4 RENTAL & CHARGES

In granting leases, licences and permits, the Council has a right to charge those who benefit from the reserve and its facilities, and has a rental policy for buildings on Council parks and reserves, adopted in July 1999. This identifies three categories of lessees (1) Sporting/Recreation Groups; (2) Community Groups; and (3) Commercial Users and has associated tiered rental charges. This policy applies to all leases on Council reserves, except on those leases where Council is constrained by terms and conditions of previous long term leases. The Council sets fees and charges for the short-term use of Council reserves in the form of permits and licenses on an annual basis as part of its annual planning process. In the granting of any leases, licences and permits for activities on Flaxmere Park, Council will set fees and charges in accordance with its rental policy.

Objectives

- 5.4.1 To recover costs to the Council and community for the processing of applications and managing the reserve.
- 5.4.2 To ensure that all leases on Council buildings are identified and being charged in accordance with Council policy for consistency and transparency.

Policy

- 5.4.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.4 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Rental and Charges shall apply where relevant.



5.0 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

5.5 NETWORK UTILITIES

Reserves are often seen by Utility Operators as convenient places to locate infrastructure. Such utilities include drains, water supply, electricity and telephone wires, electricity substations and sewage pumping stations. However, such infrastructure can have an adverse impact on the character of the reserve and its open space qualities and make the maintenance of a reserve more difficult and costly.

Section 48 of the Reserves Act requires that all services through, or rights of way over land held under the Act, to service, or benefit a third party located outside a particular reserve be laid or constructed within a formal easement registered on the title of the reserve. Provision exists under the Act for Council to approve such applications, where the easement is not going to materially alter or permanently damage the reserve, and the rights of the public in respect of the reserve are not likely to be permanently affected by the establishment and lawful exercise of the easement. Prior to granting an easement over a Council reserve, Council will determine whether public consultation is required, and consider the potential impact of the easement on the amenity and existing development of the reserve, as well as the potential impact on any future development of the reserve.

Flaxmere Park is currently the location for the primary wastewater facility for all of Flaxmere. Due to the natural slope of the land, all the pipes in Flaxmere are laid in the direction of this pumpstation facility. The natural slope of the land, and the fact that Wilson Rd is a naturally low point, led to its selection and also means no other site would be suitable. Wastewater from any future growth areas would natural fall in this direction. The site is also ideally located for any growth that may occur between Flaxmere and Omaha Road.

The Flaxmere Park water bore is the only bore in Flaxmere to be located within the confined aquifer system, and as such is a desirable location for long term water quality. Significant existing infrastructure has been established to this site, with provision for additional capacity being provided. The site is ideally located within a residential area, away from horticultural spraying or stock influences that could become a contamination risk.

In 2010 Council passed a resolution to subdivide a section 1610m² off the main area of Flaxmere Park, in order to classify the land 'Local Purpose Reserve'. This formalises the existing and accepted use of this land parcel, which accommodates a bore, a water treatment plant and sewage pumping station. These network utilities are accepted uses of this site, and shall be permitted to continue.

Objectives

- 5.5.1 To allow network utilities to locate on reserves where the effects on the recreation and natural values of the reserve can be remedied or mitigated.
- 5.5.2 To minimise the impact of utilities on the public use, enjoyment or general visual amenity of a reserve.

Policies

- 5.5.3 To allow for the accepted use of that part of Flaxmere Park classified Local Purpose Reserve for Network Utility operations.
- 5.5.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.5 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Network Utilities shall apply where relevant.

5.6 TITLE & RESERVE CLASSIFICATION

There are over 150 parks and reserves located within the Hastings District (excluding road reserves). Of these, the majority have status as reserves, are held subject to the Reserves Act, and classified according to their principal purpose. Some of the reserves within the District do not have Reserves Act status, and are managed as areas of open space in fee simple. In some instances this is appropriate in order to allow flexibility in future planning for open space, and modification of land areas as a result of development. Any land that has the status of reserve subject to the Reserves Act must have a classification. Classification is a mandatory process under Section 16 of the Reserves Act which involves assigning a reserve (or parts of a reserve) to the appropriate class. The class determines the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.

Two of the three land holdings comprising Flaxmere Park are held subject to the Reserves Act as Recreation Reserve and Local Purpose Reserve. The small area to the north east (Lot 3 DP 12950) is not held subject to the Act, however it will be a priority of this plan to classify this land parcel as Recreation Reserve, in order to guarantee its protection in perpetuity.

Objective

- 5.6.1 To ensure that any change in reserve classification follows the process outlined in the Reserves Act 1977.

Policies

- 5.6.2 Classify Lot 3 DP 12950 as Recreation Reserve.
- 5.6.3 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Title and Reserve Classification shall apply where relevant.

5.7 FUTURE RESERVE ACQUISITION

Council needs to consider the future acquisition of reserve land whether through actual purchase, reserve contribution funding, or resource consent subdivision. The Reserves Strategy identifies existing reserve resources, analyses current and future demand for reserves, public amenities and open space, and identifies current deficiencies and future needs for each type of reserve by community.

Flaxmere Park is bounded on all sides by road reserve or private land. While there are no current plans to acquire any additional land, any opportunity will be considered in the context of how it could improve the amenity, accessibility and safety of the Park for users.

Objective

- 5.7.1 To acquire future reserve land that provides for open public recreation space, linkages between reserves, access along stream, river and coastline margins and the protection of significant areas of flora and fauna.

Policy

- 5.7.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.7 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Future Reserve Acquisition shall apply where relevant.





5.0 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

5.8 SALE OF RESERVES

A number of statutes afford a level of protection over the sale of parks, such as the Local Government Act 2002 that requires public consultation prior to sale, and the Reserves Act that requires the consent of the Minister of Conservation prior to sale (if the reserve is vested under the Reserves Act).

Public submissions to the LTCCP in 2004 raised concern over the potential sale of Council parks. Further protection is therefore considered necessary for the premier parks within the District.

Flaxmere Park should be identified as one of the premier parks of the District to reflect its size, prominence and use by the community. As a premier park, ownership will be retained with the Council in perpetuity.

Objectives

- 5.8.1 To ensure that the revocation and sale of reserve land follows the due process as outlined in the Reserves Act 1977.
- 5.8.2 To identify Flaxmere Park as a premier park of the District, along with Frimley Park, Cornwall Park, Havelock North Domain, Havelock North Domain, Duart House, Windsor Park and Queen Square.
- 5.8.3 To ensure that the ownership of Flaxmere Park remains with Council

Policy

- 5.8.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.8 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Sale of Reserves shall apply where relevant.



5.9 RESERVE BOUNDARIES

Neighbouring property owners are informal 'guardians' of the park, having a degree of passive surveillance over activities occurring in it. Any work that is carried out on adjoining properties, or on the park, also has the potential to impact each party. Council will work actively with owners of land adjoining the park to ensure its efficient and effective management.

Flaxmere Park shares its boundaries with residential properties located along Flaxmere Avenue, Plymouth Road and Bristol Crescent. To the north and south the park is bound by Henderson Road and Wilson Road.

The Anglican Diocesan church directly adjoins the Park, located on Swansea Road. Council has recently purchased a subdivided section of this land, and leasing it on a long term basis to Age Concern Flaxmere.

There are also direct links with the Flaxmere Town Centre, which is located directly opposite Flaxmere Park, on its Swansea Road boundary. Council is committed to the redevelopment of the Flaxmere Town Centre, to improve access in and around it, and to create a community heart – a safe, attractive public space where the community can meet, shop and do business. Work could also involve the creation of a pedestrian main street, with links through from Henderson Road. As such, development on these two key sites must compliment each other and provide and facilitate safe linkages between them. The treatment of the entrance to the park at Swansea Road, and its integration with the Town Centre, is considered vital to this connectivity.

Objectives

- 5.9.1 To encourage neighbours to be responsive to reserve issues.
- 5.9.2 To allow Council as an affected party to give approval for any adjoining proposal where there is no adverse effect on the reserve values or use.
- 5.9.3 To ensure safe access and connectivity between the Park and the Flaxmere Town Centre.

Policy

- 5.9.4 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.9 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Reserve Boundaries shall apply where relevant.

5.10 ENCROACHMENT

An encroachment is the use of Flaxmere Park for private purposes that has not been authorised by Council in writing. This includes structures, earthworks, gardens, plantings, accessways, retaining walls and other usage that gives the appearance of private ownership, such that the public are discouraged from using that portion of the park. Problems with encroachments are exacerbated when properties are sold without the purchaser realising that land they believe they are buying is actually part of the park. New encroachments will not be permitted because they impact on park values. Council may seek removal of existing encroachments without formal agreements, where they adversely impact on park values.

There are currently no formal agreements authorising any adjoining property owners to use any part of the park for private purposes.

Objective

- 5.10.1 To allow no new encroachments on Flaxmere Park from adjoining properties without Council consent.

Policy

- 5.10.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.10 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Encroachment shall apply where relevant.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

5.11 SAFETY & VANDALISM

While Flaxmere Park is widely used by responsible members of the community who use and appreciate it for its intended purpose, it has long been associated with anti-social behaviour and criminal activity (particularly after dark). It is important that the Park becomes safe and enjoyable for all, so the Council does all it can to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour in this area. Regular maintenance inspections are undertaken by Council and its service contractors to ensure that playground equipment and other reserve infrastructure meets safety standards.

A safety audit prepared by the Police in 2008 identified that the Park is seen to be a desirable place for some youth for fighting, tagging and drinking. This park for such activity is due to its central location, easy concealment from view and difficulty for police and other agencies to monitor and patrol. Safety Audit identified operational recommendations to alleviate these issues. The Concept Plan incorporates many of these recommendations, including the opening up of views through the park, and provision of additional facilities to increase use and natural surveillance, such as cycle paths and performance platforms.

Objectives

- 5.11.1 To identify, measure and manage potential hazards in a timely manner to minimise Council exposure to complaints.
- 5.11.2 To minimise the incidence of vandalism to play equipment and other structures within the reserves.
- 5.11.3 To maintain the integrity and safety of structures by repairing vandalism as soon as possible and where possible minimising it by good design.
- 5.11.4 To ensure as far as practicable the personal safety of reserve users.

Policies

- 5.11.5 Prepare a safety audit five years from the adoption of this Plan to ensure that measures are having the desired outcome.
- 5.11.6 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.11 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Safety and Vandalism shall apply where relevant.



5.12 PROMOTION

To ensure that the Park is not under-utilised, it is important that Council promotes it and the recreational opportunities it provides. Promotion is seen as important to ensure maximum community benefit is achieved from the provision and maintenance of the Park. Promotion can be undertaken a number of ways such as on the Council's website, press releases and pamphlets, the development of information brochures, providing maps and interpretation panels. Signage is also an important method to advertise the location and facilities within a reserve.

Given its location on a prominent site, within the centre of Flaxmere, the Park forms a central part of the village character, and is widely used by local residents.

Once developed further, it is envisaged that it will become popular with visitors to the area, as well as its local community.

Objective

- 5.12.1 To provide quality promotional communication for access to and information on Flaxmere Park.

Policy

- 5.12.2 The Objectives and Policies of Section 5.12 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan related to Promotion shall apply where relevant.

5.13 REVIEW & MONITORING

All parts of this Reserve Management Plan will be kept under a continuous review in order to be able to adapt to changing circumstances or to adapt in accordance with increased knowledge. Notwithstanding this, a full review will be undertaken ten years from the final date of approval by Council of this Plan.

Objectives

- 5.13.1 To keep this plan under continuous review in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.
- 5.13.2 To review this Management Plan regularly in order to conserve, maintain and enhance the values and character of the Flaxmere Park.

Policies

- 5.13.3 Review this Plan every ten years. In the interim, Council may determine to review part of, or the entire plan, in response to:
 - a. information from monitoring which indicates the need for a review or change;
 - b. the identification of new management issues or problems for which policy is required;
 - c. changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions;
 - d. policy changes.
- 5.13.4 Publicly notify any review or change to this management plan as detailed in Sections 41(5)(a) 41(6)(a) and 119(1)(c) of the Reserves Act 1977.

6.0 ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



The following table identifies those actions that have been identified in this Reserve Management Plan with regard to the future management and development of Flaxmere Park. It identifies the proposed action, the policy number it relates to, the group or organisation responsible and the anticipated target date for completion.

NO	ACTION	POLICY#	WHO	PRIORITY
1	Construction of a covered pavilion over basketball court for events and gatherings.	2.2	HDC	3
2	Provide mobile performance platform for events.	2.2	HDC	2
3	Lighting around recreation area, cyclepath route and sportsfields.	2.4	HDC	1
4	Provide additional playground equipment for younger children.	2.5	HDC	1
5	Fence the children's playground.	2.5	HDC	1
6	Provide a splash pad water feature in the vicinity of the children's playground.	2.5	HDC	1
7	Provide a new skate facility once the old facility is removed from the Village Green.	2.6	HDC	Dependent on Flaxmere Town Centre programme
8	Provide new basketball court.	2.6	HDC	Dependent on Flaxmere Town Centre programme
9	Provide new toilet facilities in the vicinity of the children's playground.	2.7	HDC	1
10	Retain and upgrade of existing toilet block.	2.7	HDC	1
11	Provide 2 large information boards at the Swansea Road and Henderson Road entrances to the park.	2.8	HDC	1
12	Provide additional reserve furniture in the recreation area (BBQ's, picnic tables, rubbish bins, seats).	2.9	HDC	Ongoing
13	Provide new off-street carpark off Swansea Road.	2.10	HDC	1
14	Provide new off-street carpark off Wilson Road.	2.10	HDC	2
15	Provide new off-street carparking spaces adjacent to Henderson Road.	2.10	HDC	3
16	Provide new main gated access road into the park and associated carpark.	2.10	HDC	1
17	Provide paved promenade through centre of park.	2.12	HDC	1
18	Provide cycling and walking paths around and through the park, including linkages to parking areas.	2.12	HDC	1
19	Provide fitness equipment around perimeter cycle track.	2.12	HDC	2
20	Provide 'i-way' rest station near Swansea Road entrance.	2.12	HDC	2
21	Increase the amenity of the duck pond and creation of viewing platform.	3.3	HDC	1
22	Use of art to create entrance points into the park to create entry statements.	4.3	HDC Community	2
23	Continuation of Wilson Road water treatment plant	5.5	HDC	N/A

Priority 1 = Anticipated action within 1-3 years
 Priority 2 = Anticipated action within 4-6 years
 Priority 3 = Anticipated action with 7-10 years

NB: The total capital expenditure proposed on the park will total in the order of \$1.5 million, of which approximately half is already allocated in existing budgets. The remainder will be considered for inclusion in the 2012-22 Long Term Plan.

PART 3 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LAND STATUS REPORT

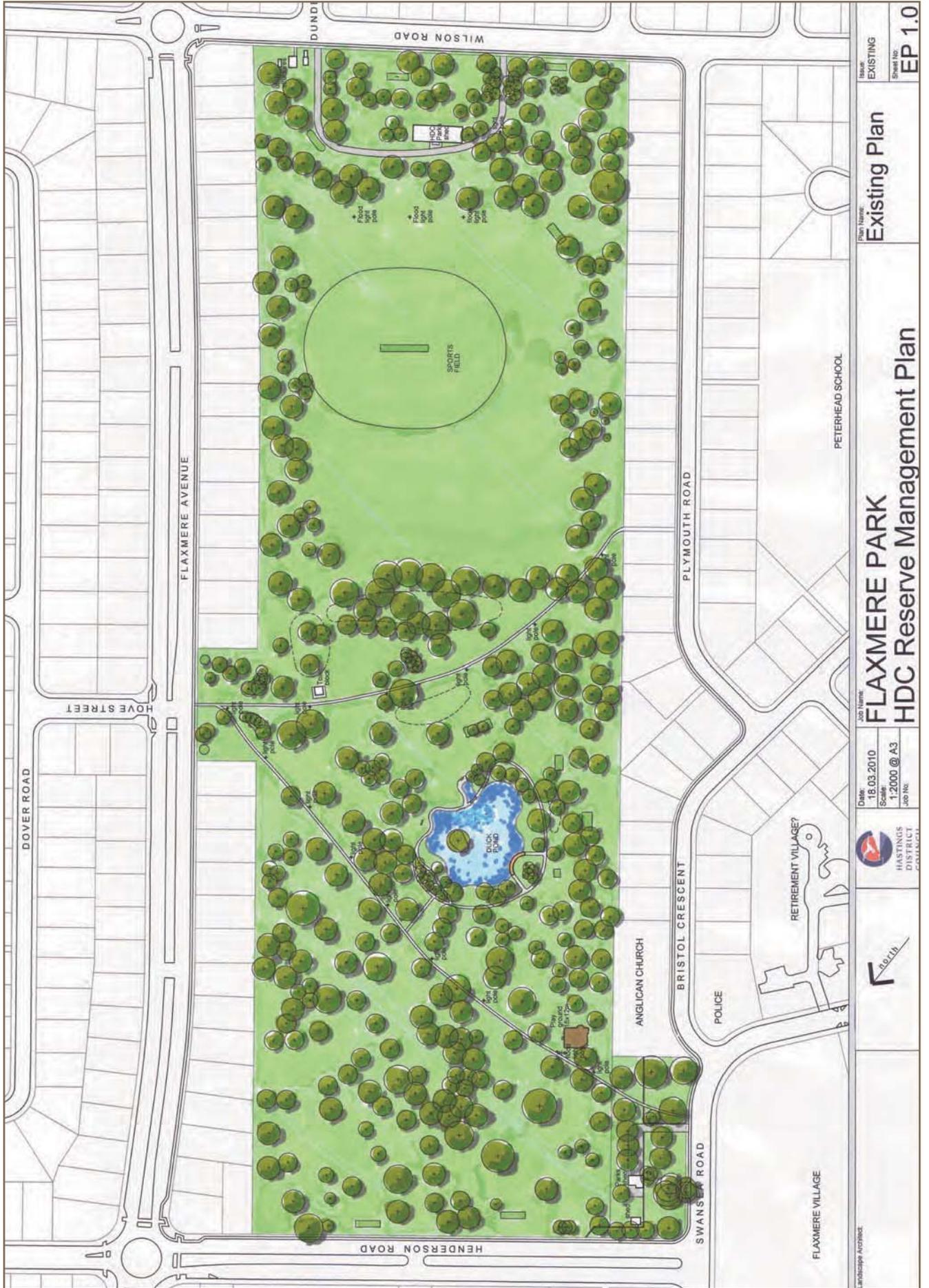


APPENDIX 1: LAND STATUS REPORT

	Flaxmere Park Area 1	Flaxmere Park Area 2	Flaxmere Park Area 3
Property Description	Land between Henderson and Wilson Roads	Land adjacent to Wilson Road	Land located on corner of Henderson Road and Swansea Road
Land Status	Fee Simple in the name of Hastings District Council	Fee Simple in the name of Hastings District Council	Fee Simple in the name of Hastings District Council
Purpose	Recreation Reserve	Local Purpose Reserve	-
Comprised In	HBD1/863	HBD1/863	HBE1/1406
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 435412	Lot 2 DP 435412	Lot 3 DP 12950
Area	16.0810 ha	0.1905 ha	0.5140 ha
Acquisition History	CFR HBD1/863 was issued on 9 January 1970 for Lot 1 DP 12180. Subdivision Plan 435412	CFR HBD1/863 was issued on 9 January 1970 for Lot 1 DP 12180. Subdivision Plan 435412	CFR HBE1/1406 was issued on 31 July 1972 for Lot 3 DP 12950.
Encumbrances	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977 (By Council resolution 13 May 2009, Ref: Item 5 CFM-17-13-1-10-99)	Subject to easement Subject to the Reserves Act 1977 (By Council resolution 13 May 2009, Ref: Item 5 CFM-17-13-1-10-99)	



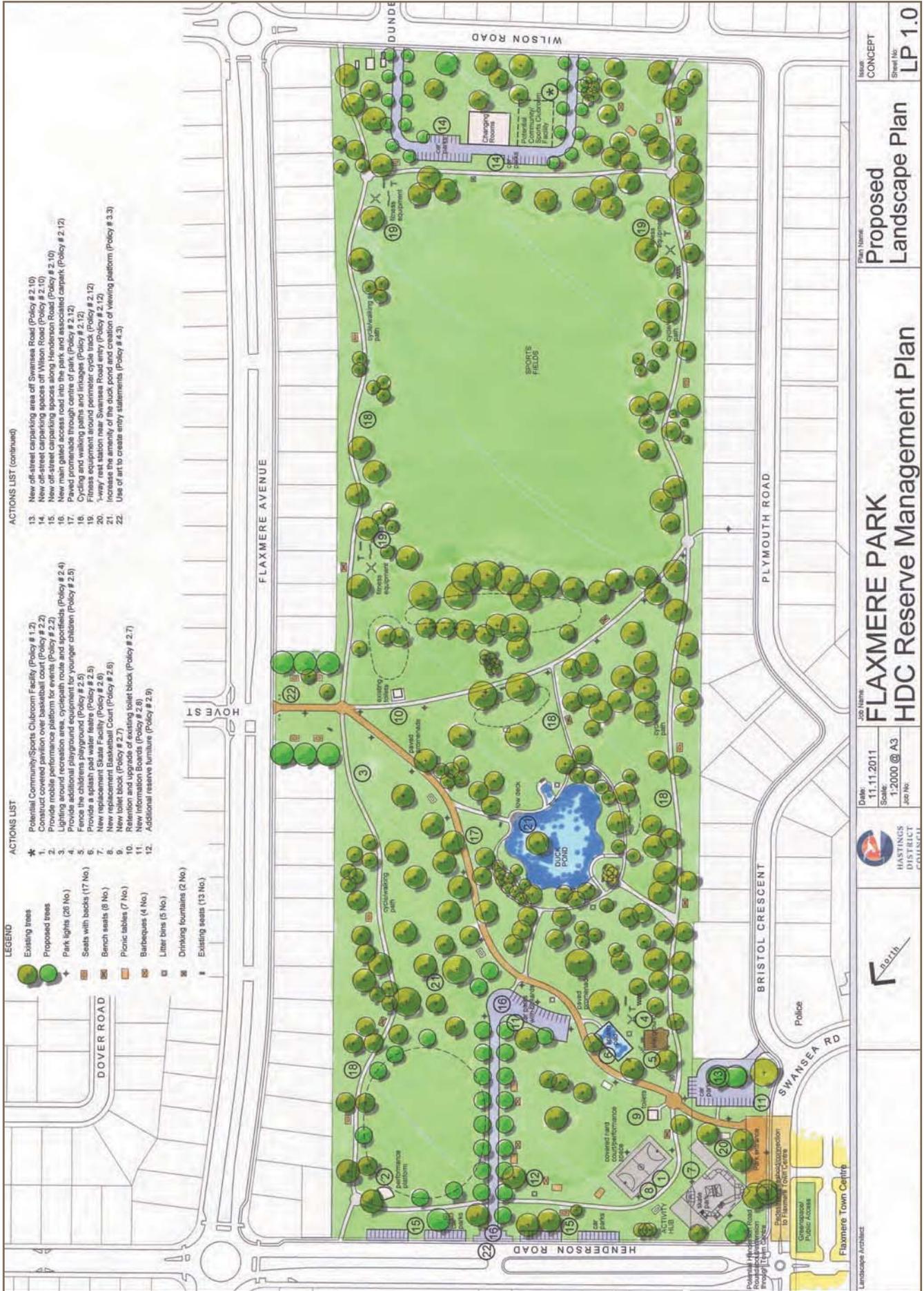
APPENDIX 2: EXISTING LAYOUT PLAN



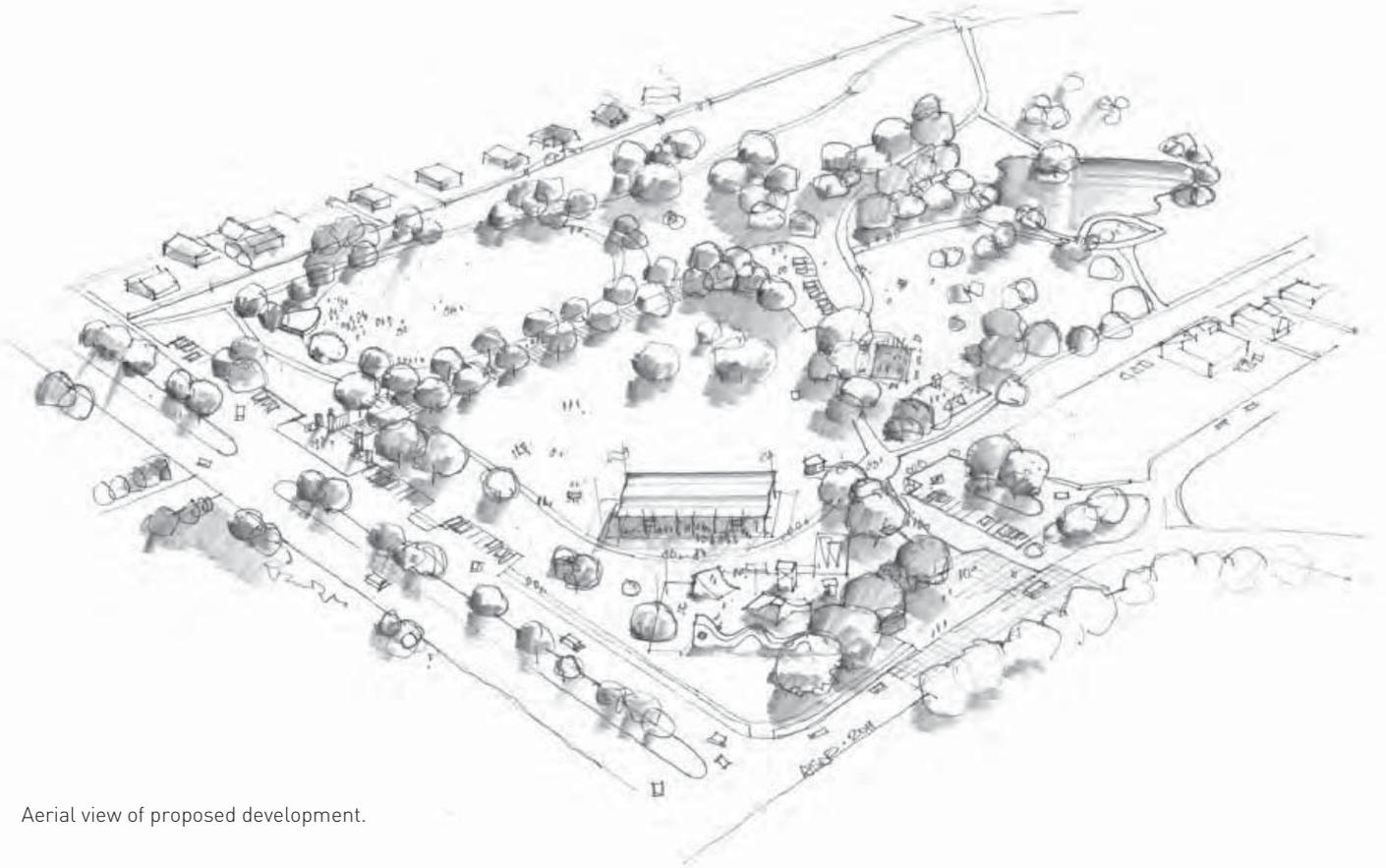
	Date: 18.03.2010 Scale: 1:2000 @ A3 Job No:	Job Name: FLAXMERE PARK HDC Reserve Management Plan	Issue: EXISTING Sheet No: EP 1.0
	Retirement Village? POLICE ANGLICAN CHURCH PETERHEAD SCHOOL FLAXMERE VILLAGE	BRISTOL CRESCENT SWANSER ROAD PLYMOUTH ROAD DUNDAS ROAD WILSON ROAD HOVE STREET DOVER ROAD FLAXMERE AVENUE HENDERSON ROAD	Existing Plan



APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN



APPENDIX 3: PERSPECTIVE DRAWINGS OF CONCEPT PLAN



Aerial view of proposed development.



Proposed view off Henderson Road, via new entrance way.



APPENDIX 3: PERSPECTIVE DRAWINGS OF CONCEPT PLAN



Proposed view off Swansea Road, creating link from Flaxmere Town centre.



Proposed view of recreation area and paved promenade.



APPENDIX 4: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



APPENDIX : AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS





NOTES

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